

Date: 30.08.2020

No. 25022/62/2020-F-I
Government of India
Ministry of Home Affairs
Foreigners Division

LONG TERM VISAS

1. Long Term Visa (LTV) to Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan nationals coming to India on valid travel documents i.e. valid passport and valid visa and seeking permanent settlement in India with a view to acquire Indian citizenship

(A) Categories of persons eligible for LTV

Following categories of Pakistan/ Bangladesh/ Afghanistan nationals shall be eligible for grant of LTV:-

- (i) Members of minority communities in Pakistan/Bangladesh/Afghanistan, namely, Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians.
- (ii) Pakistan / Bangladesh women married to Indian nationals and staying in India and Afghanistan nationals married to Indian nationals in India & staying in India.
- (iii) Indian origin women holding Pakistan/ Bangladesh/ Afghanistan nationality married to Pakistan/ Bangladesh/ Afghanistan nationals and returning to India due to widowhood/divorce and having no male members to support them in Pakistan/ Bangladesh/ Afghanistan.
- (iv) Cases involving extreme compassion.

(B) Procedure for grant of LTV

- (a) Pakistan/ Bangladesh/ Afghanistan nationals coming to India on short term visa (on any category of visa applicable to such Pakistan/ Bangladesh/ Afghanistan nationals) and applying for LTV under the above mentioned eligible categories may be granted extension on their short term visas up to a period of six months by the FRRO/ FRO concerned.

Note: Afghanistan nationals under eligible categories already staying in India on Stay Visa/ Residential Permit may also apply for grant of Long Term Visa (LTV).

- (b) Pakistan/ Bangladesh/ Afghanistan nationals eligible for grant of LTV shall apply for LTV online in the C-FRO module by logging in the URL indianfro.gov.in/fro. The applicants are required to upload the photograph and the mandatory documents as specified below for each category and submit the application online to the concerned FRRO/ DCP/ FRO along with the prescribed fee.

Documents to be uploaded by the applicant with the LTV application

- (i) Copy of Passport

- (ii) Copy of Visa and Residential Permit
- (iii) Photograph
- (iv) Indemnity Bond from the Indian guarantor
- (v) Identification proof of the Indian national giving the Indemnity Bond (Indian passport/ Election Identity Card/ Ration card with the photograph of the guarantor) (Aadhaar card alone will not be accepted as it is not a proof of Indian nationality of the holder)
- (vi) In the case of minors, written consent of the parents for grant of LTV
- (vii) In the case of category (ii) mentioned in sub- para (A) above i.e. Pakistan / Bangladesh women married to Indian nationals and staying in India and Afghanistan nationals married to Indian nationals in India & staying in India –

“Copy of the domicile certificate or Indian passport of the Indian husband and Hindi/ English version of the marriage certificate/ Nikahnama.”
- (viii) In the case of category (iii) mentioned in sub-para (A) above i.e. Indian origin women holding Pakistan/ Bangladesh/ Afghanistan nationality married to Pakistan/ Bangladesh/ Afghanistan nationals and returning to India due to widowhood/divorce and having no male members to support them in Pakistan/ Bangladesh/ Afghanistan –

“Death/ Divorce certificate”

Fee

A fee of Rs.100/- per application will be payable for grant of LTV by Pakistani nationals. The fee is to be paid online. **In the case of such Bangladesh and Afghanistan nationals, no fee will be payable.**

- (c) After submission of the application along with requisite documents and prescribed fee online, the applicants will be allotted a date for bringing the original documents for verification by the FRRO/ DCP/ FRO concerned. On the allotted day, the applicants shall bring the originals of the supporting documents to the FRRO/ DCP/ FRO concerned for verification. After verification of the documents, the original documents will be returned to the applicant. FRRO/ DCP/ FRO concerned will acknowledge the application online.
- (d) Thereafter, the application will be processed online and final decision of the Ministry of Home Affairs will be uploaded online. Based on the decision of Ministry of Home Affairs, FRRO/ DCP/ FRO concerned will make suitable endorsement on the Passport/Residential Permit of the Pakistan/ Bangladesh/ Afghanistan national.

(C) **Period for which LTV will be granted**

LTV for five years at a time may be granted to persons covered under categories (i) to (iii) mentioned in sub-para (A) above. In respect of category (iv), initial LTV will be granted only for one year.

(D) Other conditions

- (i) Grant of LTV will be subject to Police Reporting every year at the place where the Pakistan/ Bangladesh/ Afghanistan national is allowed to stay on LTV.
- (ii) Phone numbers of such Pakistan/ Bangladesh/ Afghanistan nationals on LTV should be reported to the FRRO/DCP/ FRO concerned and any change should be informed to the FRRO/ DCP/ FRO concerned without delay.

(E) Extension of LTV

Applications for subsequent extension of LTV beyond five years / one year *[in the case of category (iv) mentioned in sub-para (A) above]* will be submitted online by the applicant to the FRRO/ DCP/ FRO concerned in C-FRO module online.

Extension of LTV will be granted on two-year basis.

(F) Grant of Re-entry facility (Return Visa)

FRRO/ DCP/ FRO concerned may grant re-entry facility (Return Visa) for a maximum period of 90 days to Pakistan/ Bangladesh/ Afghanistan nationals living in India on LTV or whose request for LTV is under consideration, as follows:-

- (a) Once in a calendar year to go to their home country i.e. Pakistan/ Bangladesh/ Afghanistan, as the case may be.
- (b) Once in a calendar year to go to a third country (other than Pakistan).

In deserving cases on extreme compassionate grounds, FRRO/ DCP/ FRO concerned may grant 'Return Visa' endorsement more than once in a year on merits.

(G) Other facilities available to such persons who are granted LTV

- (a) FRRO/ FRO concerned is empowered to grant permission to Bangladesh/ Afghanistan nationals staying in India on LTV to engage themselves in employment of purely private nature i.e. excluding Government/semi-Government, local bodies, cooperative jobs etc. In the case of Pakistan nationals staying in India on LTV, such permission will be granted by the State Government/ UT Administration concerned.
- (b) Children of Pakistan/ Bangladesh/ Afghanistan nationals staying in India on LTV are allowed to take admission in schools, colleges, universities, technical/ professional institutions etc. subject to usual conditions prescribed for foreigners in this regard. No specific permission would be required for this purpose. However, an intimation in this regard shall be sent to the FRRO/ FRO concerned.
- (c) In the case of Pakistani nationals belonging to categories (ii), (iii) and (iv) mentioned in sub-para (A) above, living in India on LTV or whose case for grant of LTV is under consideration, the State Government/ UT Administration

concerned may grant additional places limited to a maximum of 2 places at any given point of time in addition to the place of stay after satisfying themselves with the genuineness of the request. This would be further subject to Police Reporting at the additional place granted within 24 hours of arrival. The Pakistani national should also take exit from the DCP/ FRO/ FRRO concerned before leaving that place. [*Persons belonging to category (i) in sub-para (A) above will be governed by the provisions given in sub-para (H) below*]

- (d) Pakistani nationals living in India on LTV approved by the Ministry of Home Affairs or whose LTV proposal is under consideration of the State Government / UT Administration/ Ministry of Home Affairs, may be granted permission for change in mode of travel and port of exit by the State Government/ UT Administration concerned. However, they will be allowed only the designated check posts for Pakistani nationals as Port of Exit.
- (e) Pakistan/ Bangladesh/ Afghanistan Doctors living in India on LTV can do private practice at their designated place after obtaining prior No Objection from the Medical Council of India and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

(H) Additional benefits extended to persons belonging to minority communities in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan i.e. Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians [Persons covered under category (i) mentioned in sub-para (A) above]

(a) Permission to take up self-employment or for doing business

Such persons are permitted to take up self-employment or to do business viz. selling of grocery items, household goods, fruits/ vegetables or any other business activity except in protected, restricted and cantonment areas. However, they will not be permitted to undertake self employment/ business in any contractual labour work related to defence establishment, scientific establishment, sensitive organization, Railways, Ministries, etc. Further, they will not be allowed to engage in businesses related to telecommunication viz. mobile handsets, SIM cards, Laptop, etc. and security system business relating to computers, information technology, cyber space, Kabari/scrap business with defence units, etc. They will not be allowed to take up any other business activity also considered sensitive from security point of view.

(b) Allowing free movement within the State/ UT (excluding Protected/ Restricted/ Cantonment areas)

- (i) Such persons living in India on approved LTV are allowed free movement within the State/ UT, except in Protected/ Restricted/ Cantonment areas, without prior approval of the DCP/ FRO/ FRRO concerned. In the case of those staying on LTV in the NCR (National Capital Region), they are allowed free movement within NCR, excluding Protected/ Restricted/ Cantonment areas, without the prior approval of the DCP/ FRO/ FRRO concerned.
- (ii) In case such Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan national has to visit a place in any other State/ UT, he/she will be allowed such a visit, except to Protected/ Restricted/ Cantonment areas, for a short period of maximum 15 days after such Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan national has informed the DCP/ FRO/ FRRO concerned. For this purpose, such Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan nationals will be

required to submit the prescribed form online to the DCP/ FRO/ FRRO concerned.

- (iii) In case the period of stay in the other State/ UT is likely to exceed 15 days on account of medical treatment in hospitals etc., such Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan national will have to get a certificate from the hospital concerned or furnish documentary proof justifying the prolonged stay and upload the same along with the form to be submitted online to the DCP/ FRO/ FRRO concerned.
- (iv) The requirement of personal reporting before the DCP/ FRO/ FRRO concerned every year by such persons belonging to the minority communities in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan will continue.

(c) **Permission for transfer of LTV papers from one State/ UT to another State/ UT**

In respect of such persons, the DCP/ FRO/ FRRO concerned at the place of residence of the Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan nationals are authorized to transfer the LTV papers from one State/ UT to another State/UT after getting no objection from the other DCP/ FRO/ FRRO concerned at the place where such Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan nationals propose to relocate, except the Protected/ Restricted or Cantonment areas.

(d) **Reduction of penalty on non-extension of short term visa/ LTV on time**

The penalty on non-extension of short term visa/ LTV on time by such persons is revised as follows:-

S.No.	Period of overstay	Existing penalty	Revised penalty
1	Upto 90 days	US\$ 30 (or equivalent amount in Indian rupees) (Approx. Rs. 1950 at 1 US\$= Rs.65)	Rs.100
2	Between 91 days and up to 2 years	US\$ 130 (or equivalent amount in Indian rupees) (Approx. Rs. 8450 at 1 US \$ = Rs.65)	Rs.200
3	More than 2 years	US\$ 230 (or equivalent amount in Indian rupees) (Approx. Rs.14,950 at 1 US\$ = Rs.65)	Rs.500

(e) **Permission to apply for LTV at the place of present residence in cases where the applicants have moved to the present place of residence without prior permission**

In cases where persons, who after reaching India on short term visas with specified places, have moved to another place (not allowed in terms of the visa granted) without obtaining prior permission of the Ministry of Home Affairs and are submitting applications for LTV at the present place of residence, the State Governments/ UT Administrations concerned are authorized to regularize their stay at the present place of

residence and to grant permission for applying for LTV at the present place of residence, not being within the Protected/ Restricted or Cantonment areas.

(f) **Opening of Bank Accounts**

Such persons applying for LTV are permitted to open NRO (Non Resident Ordinary) Rupee account without prior approval of the Reserve Bank of India subject to the following conditions:-

- (1) Such persons who have applied for grant of Long Term Visa (LTV) will be allowed to open a NRO bank account and the account may be opened initially for only six months, which may be renewed at six monthly intervals when the application for Long Term Visa (LTV) is under consideration of the Government. [The individual must be holding a valid visa and valid residential permit issued by the Foreigners Registration Office (FRO)/ Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) concerned and should have submitted the application for grant of LTV to the FRO/ FRRO concerned. Documents in this regard will have to be submitted to the Bank concerned]

Once LTV is granted with the approval of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the accounts will be made perpetual.

- (2) Such persons who have already been granted LTV with the approval of the Ministry of Home Affairs will be allowed to open NRO bank account on perpetual basis. [Such persons will have to submit a copy of the valid LTV duly approved by the Ministry of Home Affairs to the Bank concerned]
- (3) The accounts may be converted into resident accounts when such persons are granted Indian citizenship.

(g) **Permission to purchase a small dwelling unit for self occupation and suitable accommodation for carrying out self-employment without prior approval of the Reserve Bank of India**

Such persons are permitted to purchase a small dwelling unit sufficient to serve the needs of the individual/ family for self use and suitable accommodation for carrying out self- employment without prior approval of the Reserve Bank of India subject to the following conditions:-

- (1) They will not be allowed to purchase immovable property in and around restricted/protected areas including cantonment areas.
- (2) They must submit a declaration that they are residing in India on LTV.
- (3) The registration documents of the property should mention the nationality and the fact that such persons are on LTV.
- (4) They should declare source of funds for the purchase which may include assets brought by them while entering India, soft loans from relations, donations etc.

- (5) The Revenue authorities in the District where he/she resides (not below the rank of Tahsildar) should certify the fulfillment of the conditions mentioned above before permitting registration of the property.
- (6) They can sell the property only after acquiring Indian citizenship. However, in case such person wants to dispose the property before acquiring Indian citizenship, it can be done only with the prior approval of DCP/ FRO/ FRRO concerned.

(h) **Issuance of Driving License**

Such persons living in India on LTV are eligible for issue of Driving License. For this purpose, the address given in the LTV document will be considered as valid proof of address.

(i) **Issuance of PAN card and Aadhaar number**

- (i) Such persons living in India on LTV are eligible for issue of PAN Card. For this purpose, the address given in the LTV document will be considered as valid proof of address.
- (ii) Such persons living in India on LTV are eligible for issuance of Aadhaar number. For this purpose, the address given in the LTV document will be considered as valid proof of address. Further, Aadhaar number shall be made mandatory and all other benefits extended to such persons will be linked to the Aadhaar number.

2. **Extension of LTV of Pakistan nationals who could not renew the Pakistani passport because of non-possession of Computerized National Identity Card issued by the Government of Pakistan**

Following class of persons have been exempted from the provisions of rule 3 of the Passport (Entry into India) Rules, 1950 by Notification S.O. No.1115 (E) dated 15.5.2010 issued by the Central Government:-

“Persons being citizen of Pakistan who has originally entered India on a valid passport issued by the Government of Pakistan with the intention of acquiring Indian citizenship and to reside permanently in India and – (i) such person has not been able to renew the passport issued by the Government of Pakistan because of non-possession of Computerized Nationality Identity Card issued by that Government; (ii) such person must have come to India on or before the 31st day of December, 2009.”

State Governments / UT Administrations may consider cases for extension of the LTV of such persons covered under the Notification S.O. no. 1115(E) dated 15.5.2010 under their delegated powers without insisting on validity of passports.

3. **Grant of LTV to male Muslim Community members from Kerala**

Following class of persons have been exempted from the provisions of rule 3 of the Passport (Entry into India) Rules, 1950 by Notification S.O. No.1115 (E) dated 15.5.2010 issued by the Central Government:-

“Male Muslim community member being originally Indian citizen went to Pakistan after partition leaving behind family in India and returned back to India and settled in the State of Kerala on a valid passport issued by the Government of Pakistan which has either been expired or lost and –

(i) such person has gone to Pakistan between the period of 15th August 1947 and 31st December 1965; (ii) such person should not have married while in Pakistan; (iii) such person should not have acquired any immovable property in Pakistan; (iv) such person, while going to Pakistan, should have left behind family members who are Indian citizens; (v) such person should have no intention whatsoever of returning to Pakistan; (vi) such person should have any adverse report from the police and security agencies.

State Governments / UT Administrations may consider cases for extension of the LTV of such persons covered under the Notification S.O. no. 1115(E) dated 15.5.2010 under their delegated powers without insisting on validity of passports.

4. **Grant of LTV to persons belonging to minority communities in Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan who have entered into India on or before 31st December, 2014, either without any valid document including passport/ other travel document or with valid documents but the validity of any of such documents has expired**

(a) With a view to regularizing the entry and stay of persons belonging to minority communities in Bangladesh and Pakistan such as Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians, who have entered into India on or before 31st December, 2014, either without any valid document including passport/ other travel document or with valid documents but the validity of any of such documents has expired, the Ministry of Home Affairs have issued the following two notifications on 7th September, 2015, which were published in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary) on 8.9.2015:-

- (i) The Passport (Entry into India) Amendment Rules, 2015 exempting such Bangladeshi and Pakistani nationals from the provisions of rule 3 of the Passport (Entry into India) Rules, 1950.
- (ii) The Foreigners (Amendment) Order, 2015 exempting such Bangladeshi and Pakistani nationals from the application of the provisions of the Foreigners Act, 1946 and the orders made thereunder in respect of their stay in India without such documents or after the expiry of those documents, as the case may be.

(b) Subsequently, two notifications were issued on 18.7.2016 amending the Passport (Entry into India) Rules, 1950 and Foreigners Order, 1948 covering such persons belonging to minority communities (Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians) from Afghanistan within the ambit of the notifications dated 7.9.2015.

(c) All such persons from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan who are covered by the provisions of the notifications mentioned above will have to submit applications for grant of Long Term Visa (LTV) online (<https://indianfrro.gov.in>) along with following supporting documents:-

- (A) Documents to prove that the applicant is an Afghanistan/ Bangladesh/ Pakistan national
 - (a) Copy of the old Passport issued by the Governments of Afghanistan/ Bangladesh / Pakistan
 - (b) Any other document issued by the Government authorities or other Government agencies in Afghanistan/ Bangladesh/ Pakistan such as Birth Certificate, Educational Certificate issued by the Board/ University, Certificate of enrolment and study in schools, Government issued

license/ certificate, Land & tenancy records and such other documents to establish that the applicant is an Afghanistan/ Bangladesh/ Pakistan national.

(B) Documents to prove that the applicant is from a minority community in Afghanistan/ Bangladesh/ Pakistan i.e. Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians

Any document issued by the Governments of Afghanistan/ Bangladesh/ Pakistan or from any other Government authorities/ agencies clearly showing the religion of the applicant like school certificate etc. to establish that the applicant is from a minority community in Afghanistan/ Bangladesh/ Pakistan.

(C) Documents to prove the date of entry of the applicant in to India/ date from which residing in India

- (a) Slip issued by the Census Enumerators in India to such persons while conducting survey for preparation of National Population Register prior to 31.12.2014
- (b) Insurance policies issued by the Insurance companies in India
- (c) Bank/ Post Office Account in India
- (d) Court/ Tribunal Records/ Processes in India
- (e) Government issued licence/ certificate in India
- (f) Land and tenancy records in India
- (g) Permanent Residential Certificate, if any, issued in India
- (h) Refugee Registration Certificate issued in India
- (i) Document showing service/ employment under any employer in India
- (j) Any other document issued by the Government authority in India - Gram Panchayat Secretary Certificate countersigned by the Circle Officer, Driving licence, Aadhaar Card , etc. to prove the date of entry into India or the date from which residing in India.

(D) An Affidavit as in the format at **Appendix-I** sworn before/ attested by Judicial Magistrate/ Executive Magistrate/ Oath Commissioner/ Notary Public specifically mentioning that he/ she was compelled to enter in India due to religious persecution or fear of religious persecution(**This is to be submitted by all applicants along with the online application**).

Note : The documents listed at (A), (B) and (C) above are only illustrative. Copy of the documents uploaded with the application shall be verified with the originals at the time of field verification. Hence all applicants are required to produce the originals for inspection at the time of field verification.

(d) The applicant has to upload the relevant self attested copies of the documents and the duly notarized Affidavit on the online system along with the application.

(e) The applicant will have to pay a fee of Rs.100/- along with the application.

(f) In all cases which are covered by the notifications dated 7.9.2015/ 18.7.2016 of the Ministry of Home Affairs, LTV will be granted initially for a period of two years from the date of submission of the application online. LTV may be renewed thereafter on yearly basis by the FRRO/ FRO concerned.

(g) During the period of stay in India, such persons from Afghanistan/ Bangladesh/ Pakistan granted LTV will be permitted to engage themselves in employment of purely private nature i.e. excluding Government/ Semi-Government, local bodies, cooperative jobs etc. with permission from the State Government/ UT Administration concerned. Children of such Afghanistan/ Bangladesh / Pakistan nationals can take admission in schools, colleges, universities, technical/ professional institutions etc. subject to usual conditions prescribed for foreigners in this regard. No specific permission will be required for this purpose. However, an intimation in this regard shall be sent to the FRRO/ FRO/ DCP concerned.

5. Grant of LTV to foreign nationals who claim to be refugees

India is not a signatory to the 1951 United Nations Convention on the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereof. There is no national law dealing with matters connected with refugees. Government had issued a Standard Operating Procedure to be followed by all concerned agencies while dealing with foreign nationals who claim to be refugees vide letter dated 29.12.2011.

The Standard Operating Procedure to be followed whenever an FRRO/ FRO comes across foreign nationals who claim to be refugees will be as follows:-

- (i) The version of the foreign national making such claim will be carefully examined. Details of the reasons for leaving the originating country and the manner in which he/ she has entered India would be elicited from the foreigner. In case, it is found that prima facie the claim is justified, (on the grounds of a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, sex, nationality, ethnic identity, membership of a particular social group or political opinion), grant of LTV to the foreign national will be considered.
- (ii) In such cases, LTV will be granted initially for a period of one year from the date of issue. The LTV for such foreigners will be renewed every year, for a maximum of five years at the level of FRRO/ FRO concerned. If renewal is justified for the sixth year, the FRRO/ FRO concerned will furnish a proposal to MHA for a decision.
- (iii) During such period of stay in India, a foreigner to whom LTV is permitted by MHA will be allowed to take up any employment in the private sector or undertake studies in any academic institution.
- (iv) Economic immigrants i.e. foreigners who have arrived in India in search of economic opportunities, without any fear of persecution, **WILL NOT** be eligible for LTV.

AFFIDAVIT

(Specimen of the Affidavit to be submitted along with the online application)
(To be executed on non-judicial stamp paper of minimum value)

I, son/daughter/wife of resident of do hereby solemnly declare and affirm as follows:-

- (i) That I am an Afghanistan/ Bangladesh / Pakistan national belonging to the minority community in those countries i.e. Hindus/ Sikhs/ Buddhists/ Jains/ Parsis/ Christians. (*Delete whichever is not applicable*)
- (ii) That I was compelled to seek shelter in India due to religious persecution/ fear of religious persecution in my native country (*Delete whichever is not applicable*).
- (iii) That I entered into India on (Date, month and year to be given as available) through (place through which entered into India may be given)
- (iv) That I did not have any valid documents including passport or other travel documents at the time of entry into India

or

That I entered into India with valid documents including passport or other travel document bearing no. issued by the Government of Bangladesh/ Pakistan (*delete whichever is not applicable*) and with valid visa no. issued by the Embassy/ High Commission of India in and the validity of any of these documents has expired.

(*Delete whichever is not applicable*)

DEPONENT

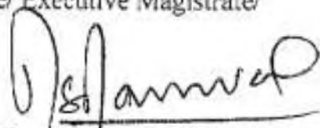
VERIFICATION

Verified at (Place), this day of (month & year) that the contents of the above affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing has been concealed therein.

DEPONENT

Attestation with Stamp

Note : The Affidavit is to be sworn before/ attested by Judicial Magistrate/ Executive Magistrate/ Oath Commissioner/ Notary Public.


(Pratap Singh Rawat)

Under Secretary to the Government of India

