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Country Information Library (CIL): India

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KEY INFORMATION: India is the third largest source country of immigrants to Canada. Fraud is prevalent in employment and education documents, and it is a “high-risk” country for marriages of convenience. There is a high level of unregistered births.

A visa is required to visit or transit Canada.

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Key facts: See the [World Factbook](#) provided by the CIA (English only).

Acquisition of citizenship

- Dual citizenship is not recognized.
- By birth:
 - Any child born in India prior to July 1, 1987 is a citizen.
 - A child born within the territory after July 1, 1987 to at least one citizen parent is a citizen (Since December 3, 2004, the second parent cannot be an illegal migrant).
- By descent:

Election commission of India's identity card (voter's identity card)

- Improperly obtained or fraudulent voter cards have been encountered. The document is relatively easy to alter since there are very few security features.
- Secondary identity document issued only to citizens 18 years and older; should not be considered as a proof of identity document.
- Not verifiable online in the public domain
- Tibetan refugees residing in India do not get a voter ID card. An Identify Certificate is issued to such individuals.

Identity certificate (IC)

- There is an elevated risk of IC holders claiming refugee status in Canada.
- Issued by the Regional Passport Office in New Delhi (RPO Delhi).
- Valid for 10 years.
- Normally issued to Tibetan refugees residing in India. Stateless people may also apply for an IC.

Unique identification number card ("Aadhaar")

- The *Aadhaar* card is proof of identity and not a proof of citizenship.
- Has a 12 digit individual identification number issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) on behalf of the Government.
- Serves as a proof of identity and address using biometric verification (digital fingerprints, iris scan and photo).
- All residents (irrespective of age and gender) that satisfy the UIDAI verification process can obtain an *Aadhaar*.
- *Aadhaar* is accepted by passport issuing authorities as proof of address and photo identity in conjunction with any other prescribed documents for the purpose of a passport application.

▼ Civil documents

Birth certificates

- No information is available at this time.

Marriage certificates

- The minimum legal age for marriage is 21 for men and 18 for women.
- Polygamy is illegal for all citizens. The practice was banned by the Supreme Court in February 2015.
- Fraudulent marriage certificates are a concern.
- Not all marriages are registered as it is not currently required, but it is becoming more common. In 2012, a bill was passed to make registration mandatory for all marriages.

Divorce certificates

- No information is available at this time.

Death certificates

- No information is available at this time.

▼ Notarized documents

- No information is available at this time.

▼ Police certificate

- Police certificates (PCs) issued from a state or city where the applicant has never resided may be cause for concern.
- A lack of confidence in Indian PCs exists:
 - They are very easy to counterfeit - There is no standardized format for PCs. They are issued by hundreds of different authorities, often on plain paper with a type written statement
 - Unreliable issuing authorities - PCs are issued by local police stations, which may be corrupt or vulnerable to bribery.
 - Inadequate recording systems; there is currently no central or regional electronic criminal database or even any central registry of finger-prints. Offences are recorded on paper at local police stations
- For more Police Certificate information and examples, please visit the [Police Certificate Image Library](#).

▼ Education documents

- Fraudulent university transcripts and degrees are common.
- Counterfeit education documents, including fraudulent Canadian Academic English Language (CAEL) certificates, have been submitted by applicants from the State of Gujarat. CAEL was purchased in July 2015 and CAEL centers were close in India.
- Altered International English Language Testing System (IELTS) score sheets have been encountered, so online verifications of IELTS results should be verified online using the [British Council website](#) (English only). Officers should carefully compare the photo online with the various photos on the application, as impostors have been found to take the exams for applicants.