



Should India allow dual citizenship?

## Description

### What is dual citizenship:

- Dual citizenship means being a citizen of two countries at the same time. Dual citizens have the rights and responsibilities of both countries, such as the ability to live, work, and vote in both places. They belong to both nations and hold two passports, one from each country.

### Does India allow dual citizenship:

- India currently does not allow dual citizenship. Some countries permit dual citizenship, others don't. Right now, India offers an Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) card for people of Indian origin, which gives them certain privileges, like the right to travel and work in India. However, OCI holders do not have all the rights. For example, they cannot vote and cannot buy agricultural land.

### Benefits of allowing dual citizenship:

- If dual citizenship is allowed, Indians abroad feel closer to their homeland. Then, they're more likely to invest in India, send remittances, or start businesses here.
- Skilled Indians living abroad may consider returning to India more often, if they can hold citizenship in both countries.
- Indian passport holders currently have limited visa-free access to countries compared to passports from nations like the U.S. or Canada. With dual citizenship, Indians can use the passport of the other country to visit more countries without going through visa processes. For example, a person with both Indian and Canadian citizenship can use their Canadian passport to visit countries in Europe visa-free. In case of political issues or travel bans on certain nationalities, dual citizenship offers an alternative passport for travel. In this way, dual citizenship makes international travel easier.



#### Disadvantages of allowing dual citizenship:

- Allowing dual citizenship may lead to divided loyalties, where a person feels torn between two countries. For example, if someone has both Indian and U.S. citizenship, and if these countries have a disagreement, India might expect them to support its side, while the U.S. expects their loyalty too. This can make it hard for the person to choose and cause confusion about where their true loyalty lies.

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- Dual citizens will have the right to vote in both countries, which could lead to outside influence on India's politics. For example, if someone holds both Indian and foreign citizenship, they could vote in both countries' elections. This might create problems if the interests of the other country are different from India's. For instance, a foreign country might try to push policies that benefit it but not India, causing a conflict of interest during elections or when making important decisions.
  - Allowing dual citizens to access welfare benefits, subsidies, or public services in India could strain the country's resources. Since they may not pay taxes in India, local people might feel that this is unfair.
  - Dual citizens, especially those who also have citizenship in countries that are against India, could create security risks.
  - If dual citizens break the law in one of their countries, it can be complicated to know which country should take action. If one country does not want to punish them, they might not cooperate on legal matters like extradition. This can lead to confusion and make it harder to enforce the law properly.

### Conclusion:

Allowing dual citizenship for Indians has both benefits and risks. On the positive side, it could make international travel easier and encourage people to stay connected with India, boosting investment and support. However, it could also lead to divided loyalties, with people torn between two countries, and create complications in areas like law enforcement, national security, and politics. A balanced approach, where dual citizenship is allowed with selected countries, might be a better solution.

### Your Turn!

What are your thoughts on this topic? Do you think India should allow dual citizenship? Express your point of view through the comment section below. Subscribe to our blog to read answers to the trending GD topics.

### References:

- [Is India open to the idea of dual citizenship?](#)
- [Political parties should endorse dual citizenship](#)

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