



Renunciation of Indian Citizenship

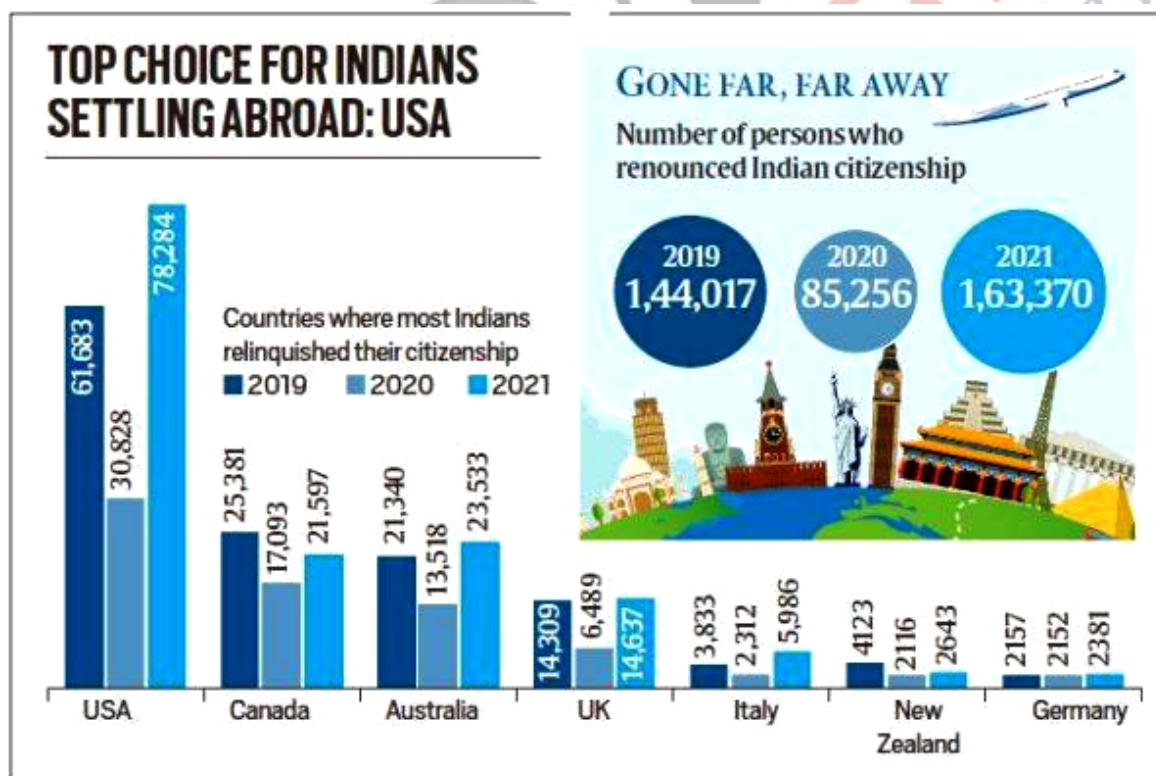
For Prelims: Citizenship, Indian Diaspora, Global Migration Review

For Mains: Renunciation of Indian Citizenship

Why in News?

The Ministry of Home Affairs stated that **over 1.6 lakh Indians renounced their Indian citizenship** in 2021.

- The numbers marked a sharp increase in comparison to the 85,256 people who gave up their Indian citizenship in the Covid-hit year of 2020, and a somewhat smaller increase over the **1.44 lakh who surrendered their passports in 2019**.



What is Citizenship?

- **Constitutional Provisions:**
 - Citizenship is listed **in the Union List under the Constitution** and thus is under the **exclusive jurisdiction of Parliament**.
 - The Constitution does not define the term 'citizen' but details of various categories of

persons who are entitled to citizenship **are given in [Part 2 \(Articles 5 to 11\)](#).**

- **Acquisition of Indian Citizenship:**
 - **The Citizenship Act of 1955 prescribes five ways** of acquiring citizenship, viz, birth, descent, registration, naturalisation and incorporation of territory.
- **Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019:**
 - The **Act [amended](#) the law to fast-track citizenship for religious minorities**, specifically Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians, from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan who entered India prior to 2015.
 - The requirement for them to stay in India for at least 11 years before applying for Indian citizenship has been reduced to five years.

Why do People Relinquish Citizenship?

- **General:**
 - People **leave their countries for better jobs and living conditions**, and some are pushed out by **[climate change](#) or unfavourable political situations** at home.
 - **According to a 2020 report by the [Global Wealth Migration Review](#).**
 - High net worth individuals around the world who renounce citizenship acquired at birth may do so for **reasons of rising crime rates or the lack of business opportunities at home.**
 - It can also be a sign of bad things to come as (they) are often the first people to leave — they have the means to leave unlike middle class citizens.
 - Among the other reasons are **safety of women and children**, lifestyle factors like climate and pollution, financial concerns including taxes, better healthcare for families and educational opportunities for children, and **to escape oppressive governments.**
- **India:**
 - For India with newer generations holding passports of other countries, **some older Indians are choosing to leave to be with family settled overseas.** In some high-profile cases, people who leave India may be fleeing the law or fear legal action for alleged crimes.
 - The **post-Independence diasporic community has been going (out of India)** for jobs and higher education but the pre-Independence diasporic movement **was completely different, witnessing forced and contractual labour.**
 - Since India does not provide dual citizenship, therefore one has to renounce his/her Indian Citizenship **for acquiring citizenship of another country.**
 - Countries **where Indians have been migrating for long or where people have family or friends would be more automatic choices**, as would considerations such as easier paperwork and more welcoming social and ethnic environments.

What are the Ways to Renounce Citizenship in India?

- **Voluntary Renunciation:**
 - If an Indian citizen wishes, who is of full age and capacity, **he can relinquish citizenship of India by his will.**
 - When a person relinquishes his citizenship, **every minor child of that person also loses Indian citizenship.** However, when such a child attains the age of 18, he may resume Indian citizenship.
- **By Termination:**
 - The Constitution of **India provides single citizenship.** It means an Indian person **can only be a citizen of one country at a time.**
 - If a person takes the citizenship of another country, **then his Indian citizenship ends automatically.** However, this provision does not apply when India is busy in war.
- **Deprivation by Government:**
 - The Government of **India may terminate the citizenship of an Indian citizen if;**
 - The citizen has **disrespected the Constitution.**

- Has obtained citizenship **by fraud**.
- **The citizen has unlawfully traded or communicated** with the enemy during a war.
- Within 5 years of registration or naturalisation, **a citizen has been sentenced to 2 years of imprisonment** in any country.
- The citizen has been living **outside India for 7 years continuously**.

[Source: TH](#)

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