



## Afghan Sikhs' Citizenship Under the CAA

**Source:** [TH](#)

In a significant development, **twenty Afghan Sikhs have recently been granted citizenship** under the [Citizenship Amendment Act \(CAA\), 2019](#) in New Delhi, marking a pivotal step for many long-term visa holders who have sought Indian citizenship for decades.

- Some applicants, who have been **living in India on long-term visas since 1997**, had their citizenship applications pending under the [Citizenship Act, 1955](#).
- **CAA vs. 1955 Act:** In December 2019, the Citizenship Act, 1955 was amended to facilitate citizenship through **registration and naturalisation** to undocumented migrants belonging to **six non-Muslim communities (Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi or Christian) from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan**, who entered India on or before 31st December 2014, and reduced the period to qualify for citizenship from the **existing requirement of continuous stay of 11 years to five years**.
  - Many Afghan Sikhs are petitioning to migrate their applications from the 1955 Act to the CAA, as the latter provides a **better chance of obtaining citizenship**.
- Applications under the 1955 Act faced delays due to the involvement of multiple authorities, whereas the CAA streamlined the process by removing the State government's role, resulting in quicker approvals.

**Read more:** [Centre Notifies Rules for CAA Implementation](#)

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