



# Government Starts Granting Citizenship Under CAA

## Why in News?

Recently, the **Ministry of Home Affairs** announced that the government has **begun awarding citizenship** under the [Citizenship Amendment Act, 2024](#) in **West Bengal, Haryana, and Uttarakhand**.

## Key Points

- On May 15, the initial batch of citizenship certificates was presented to the candidates in New Delhi by the Union Home Secretary, subsequent to the issuance of the [Citizenship \(Amendment\) Rules, 2024](#), as approved by the Empowered Committee in Delhi.
- The Citizenship Amendment Rules, 2024, issued by the MHA on March 11 2024, have cleared the path for the implementation of the CAA, which was **approved by Parliament in 2019**.
  - According to the guidelines, migrants belonging to **six minority groups** from **Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh** can apply for Indian citizenship under the CAA, with retrospective effect.
- Under the amendment of CAA 2019, **migrants** who **arrived in India by December 31, 2014**, and had **faced "religious persecution or feared religious persecution" in their home country** became **eligible for citizenship** under the new law.
  - These migrants will be granted expedited **Indian citizenship within six years**. The **amendment also reduced the residency requirement** for naturalization of these migrants **from eleven years to five**.

## What the rules state

Centre has implemented CAA, 4yrs after the law was passed, as it notified rules ahead of expected announcement of LS polls

### THE 39-PAGE NOTIFICATION... of the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024

#### ...STATES THAT AN APPLICANT WILL HAVE TO SUBMIT

- Form VIII A, with affidavits verifying statements and character of applicant
- Declaration that they have adequate knowledge of a language specified in 8th schedule of Constitution
- Supporting papers like a passport, or identity document to show someone in lineage was a citizen of one of the three countries

#### APPLICANT MUST ALSO PROVE

- 1 They entered India before December 31, 2014
- 2 The applicant or either of his parents was a citizen of Independent India

#### WHAT IS THE 2019 ACT?

CAA made people from Hindu, Sikh, Jain Buddhist, Christian and Parsi faiths who entered India from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan eligible for citizenship

