



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

