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# ‘Citizenship Amendment Act’ (CAA)

- The recent **Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) notification**, which pertains to the rules of citizenship amendment, has been issued by the **central government**. With this, the law has come into effect in the country.



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## What is the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019:-

- The full form of Citizenship Amendment Act i.e. CAA is Citizenship Amendment Act. This was CAB (Citizenship Amendment Bill) before it was passed in the Parliament. After getting the approval of the President, this bill has become the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).
- CAA The Citizenship Amendment Act 2019 opens the way for granting Indian citizenship to minorities from three neighboring countries (Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh) who have taken refuge in India for a long time. There is no provision in this law to take away the citizenship of any Indian, irrespective of his religion. There is no threat to the citizenship of Muslims of India or people of any religion and community from this law.
- This is an act passed by the Parliament of India by which the Citizenship Act of 1955 has been amended and it has been arranged that Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains, Parsis and Christians who came to India from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan before 31 December 2014 Indian citizenship can be granted. The Bill also relaxed the requirement of 11 years of residence in India for granting Indian citizenship and changed this period to only 5 years of residence in India.





- The Citizenship Act provides for citizenship by naturalization. The applicant must have resided in India during the last 12 months and for 11 months out of the last 14 years. The law extends the period from 11 years to six years for individuals belonging to six religions (Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Parsi and Christian) and three countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan).
- The law also provides that registration of Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholders can be canceled if any rule is violated.

## Main objective of CAA:-

- The CAA aims to provide Indian citizenship to persecuted minorities such as Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.







## Citizenship Act:-

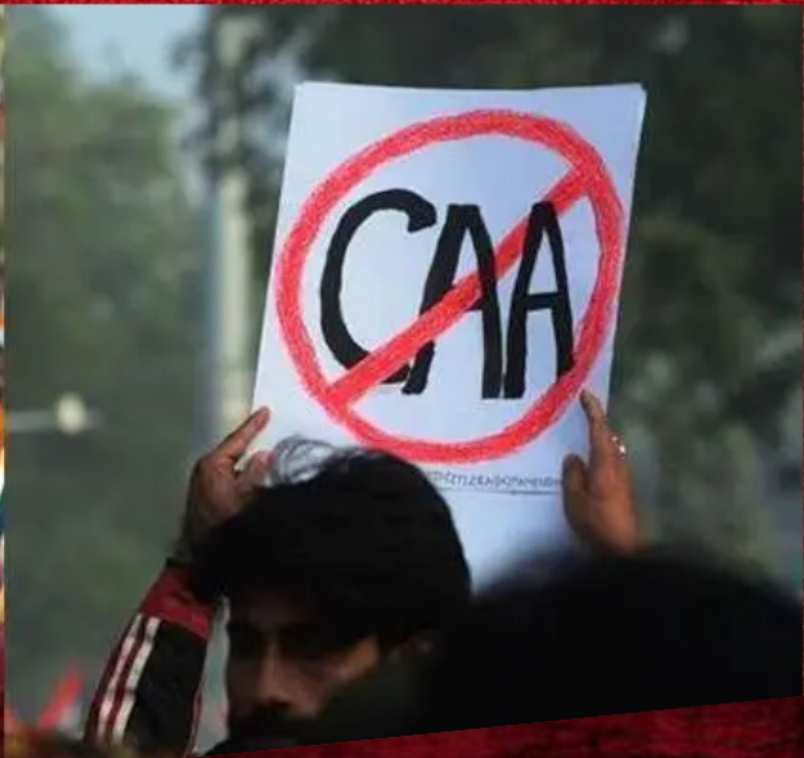
- The Citizenship Act, 1955 governs who can obtain Indian citizenship and on what grounds. A person can become an Indian citizen if he is born in India or has Indian parents or has been living in the country for some time, etc. However, illegal immigrants are prohibited from obtaining Indian citizenship. An illegal migrant is a foreigner who: (i) enters the country without valid travel documents such as passport and visa, or (ii) enters with valid documents but overstays the permitted time period.
- Illegal immigrants can be imprisoned or deported under the Foreigners Act, 1946 and the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920. The 1946 and 1920 Acts empower the Central Government to regulate the entry, exit and residence of foreigners within India. In 2015 and 2016, the Central Government had issued two notifications exempting certain groups of illegal immigrants from the provisions of the 1946 and 1920 Acts. These groups are Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan who came to India on or before December 31, 2014. This means that these groups of illegal immigrants will not be deported





## Who will get citizenship from CAA:-

- After the implementation of CAA, the right to grant citizenship will be completely with the Central Government. Refugees belonging to Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Christian and Parsi religions from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan will be given Indian citizenship. Let us tell you that only those who had come and settled in India before December 31, 2014, will get citizenship. Under this law, those people have been considered as illegal immigrants, who have entered India without valid travel documents (passport and visa) or have come to India with valid documents, but have stayed here for more than the stipulated period.







## Process to apply:-

- Under CAA, there is a provision to give citizenship to people of other religions coming from three Muslim majority neighboring countries except the Muslim community. A web portal related to CAA has been prepared by the Central Government. The minorities coming from three Muslim-majority neighboring countries will have to register themselves on this portal and after government scrutiny, they will be given citizenship under the law. For this, there will be no need to provide any documents to the displaced minorities from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan.
- The entire process of obtaining citizenship has been kept online. An online portal has also been prepared regarding this. To get citizenship, applicants will have to indicate the year in which they entered India without any documents. No document of any kind will be asked from the applicant. All pending cases related to citizenship will be transferred online. Eligible displaced persons will have to apply only by visiting the online portal. The Home Ministry will examine the application and citizenship will be issued to the applicant.





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