

U.S. Visa Policy Changes Impact Indian Citizens

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security issued an order amending immigration rules, citing national security risks.

The U.S. visa policy changes aim to limit the stay and increase scrutiny for foreign students, media professionals, and exchange visitors.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- The **U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)** issued an order on **July 16, 2026**, amending **immigration rules**.
- The changes were introduced citing **national security risks** from **Indian** and **Chinese students**.
- The order specifically blames a “**Duration of Status loophole**” that allegedly allowed **foreign nationals** to overstay.
- The amended rules will impact **F, J, and I categories of visas**.
- **PhD scholars, journalists, and exchange visitors** are among those who will be directly affected by these changes.

STATICS & SYLLABUS FOCUS

The **F-1 visa** is a non-immigrant visa for international students pursuing **academic studies** or **language training programs** in the U.S.

The **J-1 visa** is for individuals approved to participate in **exchange visitor programs** in the U.S., promoting **cultural and educational exchange**.

The **I visa** is issued to representatives of **foreign media**, including **journalists**, film crews, and editors, for professional activities in the U.S.

The **U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)** was established in **2002** following the **September 11 attacks**, consolidating various federal agencies.

India's **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** is responsible for the country's **foreign relations** and **consular services** for its citizens abroad.

Article 51 of the Indian Constitution, a **Directive Principle of State Policy**, promotes **international peace and security**.

The **Citizenship Act, 1955**, defines and regulates the acquisition, determination, and termination of **Indian citizenship**.

REVISION FLASHCARD

U.S. DHS amended F, J, I visa rules impacting Indian students, journalists, and exchange visitors.

Syllabus Relevance: High

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