



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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MHA Amends Citizenship Rules, 2009

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The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has notified amendments to the Citizenship Rules, 2009, making it mandatory for applicants from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan seeking Indian citizenship to declare details of their passports issued by these countries. The amendment was introduced through the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2026, under Section 18 of the Citizenship Act, 1955.?

What are the New Rules?

Under the amended provisions:

Applicants must declare whether they possess any valid or expired passport issued by Pakistan, Bangladesh, or Afghanistan.

If they possess such passports, they must provide:

Passport number

Date of issue

Place of issue

Date of expiry

Applicants must also undertake to surrender these passports to the Senior Superintendent of Post or Superintendent of Post within 15 days after approval of Indian citizenship.

Objective Behind the Amendment:

According to MHA officials, the amendment is mainly an administrative clarification aimed at:

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Strengthening verification procedures

Improving record-keeping

Streamlining citizenship documentation processes

The rules came into force immediately after publication in the Official Gazette.

Link with Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019

The amendment is related to the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019.

The CAA provides Indian citizenship to persecuted minorities belonging to:

Hindu

Sikh

Buddhist

Jain

Parsi

Christian communities

from:

Pakistan

Bangladesh

Afghanistan

who entered India on or before 31 December 2014.

Additional Key Facts:

Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019:

Amends the Citizenship Act, 1955.

Reduces the residency requirement for eligible migrants from 11 years to 5 years for naturalisation.

Citizenship Rules, 2024:

Rules for implementation of CAA were notified on 11 March 2024.

Applications are processed through the online portal:

Indian Citizenship Online Portal.

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Constitutional Provision:

Citizenship is mentioned in Articles 5 to 11 of the Indian Constitution.

Parliament has the power to regulate citizenship under Article 11.

Important Acts Related to Citizenship:

Citizenship Act, 1955

Foreigners Act, 1946

Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920

Exempted Areas Under CAA:

CAA provisions do not apply to:

Tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura included in the Sixth Schedule

Areas covered under the Inner Line Permit (ILP) system

Key Concerns and Debate

The Citizenship Amendment Act and related rules have been debated on grounds of:

Religious criteria in citizenship

Exclusion of Muslim migrants

Concerns regarding secularism and equality under Article 14

Possible impact on NRC (National Register of Citizens)