

Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025



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Why in News?

The **Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025** came into effect on 1st September 2025, consolidating India's **immigration laws**, imposing stricter penalties for forged documents, and strengthening reporting and monitoring of foreigners.

- It repeals four outdated laws: the **Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920**, the **Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939**, the Foreigners Act, 1946, and the Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Act, 2000.

What are the Key Provisions of the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025?

- **Tougher Penalties for Forged Travel Documents:** 2-7 years imprisonment and a fine of Rs 1-10 lakh for using or supplying forged passports, visas, or other travel documents.
 - Up to 5 years imprisonment or Rs 5 lakh fine for foreigners entering restricted areas without valid authorization.
- **Mandatory Reporting of Foreigners' Details:** Hotels, universities, educational institutions, hospitals, and nursing homes must report information about foreign nationals staying or visiting.
 - International airlines and shipping companies are required to share advance passenger and crew data before arrival.
- **Government Control Over Premises:** Central government empowered to regulate or shut down premises frequently visited by foreigners if deemed necessary for security reasons.
- **Bureau of Immigration :** It grants statutory backing to the Bureau of Immigration (established in 1971 under the Intelligence Bureau) to identify, detain, and deport illegal foreigners.

Did You Know?

- **US:** Launched **“Catch and Revoke”** using **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** tools to identify and revoke visas of individuals linked to terrorist groups.
- **Australia:** Allows detention of non-citizens considered a security risk but **prohibits indefinite detention of stateless persons** unless deportation is possible.
- **Gulf Countries:** Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Kuwait have deported thousands of migrant workers on security grounds, often with limited avenues of appeal.

Read more: [Refugee, Deportation and Related Issues in India](#)