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*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi ; T – Thiruvananthapuram
312 Indian-origin Sikhs removed from post-militancy ‘adverse list’

Home Ministry’s list had barred them, kin from applying for Indian visa

At least 312 Indian-origin Sikh refugees in foreign countries have been removed from a Ministry of Home Affairs “adverse list”, enabling them to apply for an Indian visa and visit the country, a senior ministry official said.

Home Ministry has removed from the list 312 Indian-origin Sikhs mentioned in the list and they can now apply for registration as Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) after they have applied for and held passport for a period of five years.

Off the blacklist

Names of 312 Indian-origin Sikhs were removed from a list that prevented them from getting an Indian visa.

The list was prepared after the 2016 list in 1996, following which some young persons from the community took part in violent activities and were involved in militancy activities.

“Sikh Opposition in Punjab and the opposition (Congress) leader had been present in the list,” the official said.

Individuals are still on the adverse list but persons in overseas Indian missions were told that the list was at its peak, many filed applications for OCI cards.

- Gave a call for separation of Punjab from Indian State
- Gave call for armed struggle against Indian state
- May - June 1984 - Violent separatist and terrorist activity escalated to explosive point
- Operation Blue Star - June 1984
- Bhindranwale and many of his followers killed
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<th><strong>Operation Blue Star</strong></th>
<th><strong>1980s</strong></th>
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<td>hastily conceived, undertaken without proper planning and poorly executed</td>
<td>many persons from Sikh community left, fled India</td>
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<td>Established that Indian state can deal with secessionism and terrorism</td>
<td>Central Adverse List - those who fled - who took part in secessionist movements in Punjab</td>
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<tr>
<td>produced deep sense of anger and outrage among the Sikhs, all over the country</td>
<td>those listed - will not be given visa to visit India - could not come to Punjab, could not visit families, could not reconnect to their roots</td>
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<td>After the assassination, Anti-Sikh riots happened</td>
<td>312 names were removed from the list</td>
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| **As the names are removed from Black list, they can apply for OCI registration** |
| **Overseas Citizens of India Card** |
| They are persons of Indian origin |
| Not Indian citizens or Indian nationals |
| They can become Indian citizen as per Section 5(i)(g) of the Citizenship Act, 1955 |
Supreme Court

1. Centre not taken any action to bring Uniform Civil Code (UCC)
2. Expected State to endeavour to secure a UCC, throughout the territories of India for the citizens
3. Founders of Constitution expected the same
   * Article 44 of Constitution (Part IV, DPSP) "The State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India"
   * Replace the distinct personal laws of marriage, divorce, etc. based on customs of each religion
     - Ex: Triple Talaq

1. The Hindu Succession Act, 1956
   * Applicable
     - Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, Sikhs
     - person who is domiciled in territory to which act extends
   * Not applicable
     - Muslims, Christians, Parsis, or Jews

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.
- Indian Polity and Governance-Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.
- Economic and Social Development-Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.
1. Mohd. Ahmed Khan Vs Shah Bano (Shah Bano case)
2. Sarla Mudgal Vs Union of India
   - Art 44 → remained dead letter
   - No evidence of official activity for framing UCC
   - Common Civil Code
     - Will help national integration
     - Will remove disparate loyalties to laws having conflicting ideologies

Example of Goa
- Portuguese Civil Code, 1867
  - Applicable regardless of religion with some exceptions
  - Family property
    - Married couple holds jointly
    - Equal share of assets after divorce
    - Half of the property to pass to legal heirs as legitimate
    - Muslim men cannot practice polygamy
    - No provision for verbal divorce

Law Commission of India - Consultation Paper on Reform of Family Law, 2018
- Absence of consensus on UCC
- Preserve diversity of personal laws and ensuring FR is not contradicted
- Codify personal laws to great extent
  - Remove inequalities through amendments
- UCC - neither necessary nor desirable at this stage

Many countries moving to ‘Recognition of Difference’
- More existence of difference does not imply discrimination
- Indicative of robust democracy
Meet ends with vow to curb land degradation

UNCCD assures ‘neutrality’ by 2030

A two-week-long United Nations Conference to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) ended with a commitment to achieve land degradation neutrality by 2030. Such neutrality is defined by the UN as ensuring that enough land is available across the globe to replace land degraded by 2030.

News:

➔ COP 14 to UNCCD adopted ‘Delhi Declaration’

➔ Delhi Declaration → Ambitious statement of global action by each country to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)

➔ LDN → emerged from UN Conference on Sustainable Development, 2012

➔ Countries pledged to halt land degradation

➔ India → Voluntary LDN target

➔ Committed to restore at least 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030

➔ 122 countries committed to setting LDN targets

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I—(200 marks)

• Current events of national and international importance.
• General issues on Environmental ecology, Bio-diversity and Climate Change - that do not require subject specialization.

Part B—Main Examination

Paper IV—General Studies III; Technology, Economic Development, Bio-diversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

• Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

Landmark decision to boost global efforts to mitigate and manage the risks of drought

➔ proactive approach

1. Drought preparedness plans
2. Increased risk mitigation
   - Drought
   - Sand storms &
   - Dust storms

Agreed to make SDG target of achieving LDN by 2030 as a ‘National Target’ for action
(SDG-15; Target - 15.3)

1. Addressing insecurity of land tenure, including gender inequality in land tenure
2. Promoting land restoration
   ➔ Reducing land-related carbon emissions
3. Mobilize innovative Sources of finance → implementing above decisions at country-level
Delhi to bring back odd-even vehicle scheme

Special Correspondent
New Delhi

The odd-even vehicle rationing scheme will return to the capital for the third time in November, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced on Friday.

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I—(200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance
- General issues on Environmental ecology, Bio-diversity and Climate Change - that do not require subject specialization

Part B—Main Examination

Paper IV

General Studies-III; Technology, Economic Development, Bio-diversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

- Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment

* Delhi CM: odd - even vehicle Scheme in November, 2019 - third time
* Studies : air pollution in Delhi - ↓ 10% to 13% - earlier
* Odd - even Scheme - car rationing scheme - implemented in cities - Beijing, Sao Paulo, Oslo and London
* Part of 7 point action plan in Delhi
  - Odd even scheme
  - Community Diwali laser show
  - Hotspots
  - Dust control
  - Environment marshalls
  - Free challenge
  - Provide masks

Challenges:
- Opposition - Section of Society
- Pathetic public transportation system
- Overcharging, etc.

A milestone in greater transparency, accountability

Report presented in the Parliament on CAG Report on Transparency, Accountability and Corruption in India

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I—(200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.
- Indian Polity and Governance- Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.

Part B—Main Examination

Paper III

General Studies-II; Governance, Constitution, Policy, Social Justice and International relations.

- Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.

Part V

General Studies-IV; Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude

- Probit in Governance: Concept of public service; Philosophical basis of governance and probity; Information sharing and transparency in government, Right to Information, Codes of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, Citizen’s Charters, Work culture, Quality of service delivery, Utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption.
Jan Soochna Portal (JSP) - Rajasthan govt
* furtherance of Section 4 of RTI Act, 2005
  ↓
  proactive or Suomoto disclosure of information

Significance: Transparency + Accountability
  Eg: National Judicial Data Grid -
  information on pending cases for years -
  increased accountability of judiciary
  → disposal of old cases

JSP: Consultation of government officials +
  IT professionals + civil society
  * gives information: availability of food
    grains, ration shops + distribution,
    schemes and beneficiaries - real time data

Advantages of JSP:
  1) Identify those who have not availed ration
     for long period - if they do not want -
     Surrender benefits - others deserve
  2) Information on beneficiaries of loan
     waiver scheme - bank branch + amount
     - increased transparency
  3) Information on mining leases and
     environment clearances
     - list of mines + geographical coordinates
     + areas → identify illegal mining

JSP: information - Suomoto + zero cost -
  true spirit of RTI Act

Challenges and Solutions:
  1) Maintain - uninterrupted flow of
     information
     * guidelines to departments
     * Dept of Information and Technology -
       nodal department
  2) Appoint 'grievance redressal officers':
     increased accountability
  3) Digital divide - decentralization of JSP+
     information kiosks, e-mitra kendras in
     villages and towns

JSP: make people, even marginalized
  sections a part of governance process
  * JSP - a model for other states to follow
Practice Question – Prelims
Q1. Consider the following statements with respect to Uniform Civil Code.

1. Article 45 of the Constitution deals with Uniform Civil Code.
2. Securing a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India for the citizens by the State is incorporated in Constitution as a Directive Principles of State Policy.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Practice Question – Prelims
Q2. Consider the following statements with reference to Directive Principles of State Policy.

1. It is enforceable by any court.
2. It is fundamental in the governance of the country.
3. The ideal of ‘Welfare State’ is enshrined in this.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 and 2
b) 1 and 3
c) 2 and 3
d) 1, 2 and 3
Practice Question – Prelims

Q3. Consider the following statements.

1. Under Sustainable Development Goal 15, every nation shall restore degraded land and soil, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world by the year 2030.

2. India is a signatory to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Practice Questions – Prelims Answers
15-09-2019

Q1. b – 2 only
Q2. c – 2 and 3 only
Q3. c – Both 1 and 2

LIKE, COMMENT & SHARE

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