

Over 59,000 Indians Became US Citizens In 2023

US Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS)

Why In The News?

- Over **59,000 Indians** Were Enlisted As Bona Fide US Citizens In 2023, Helping The Country Secure The 2nd Slot For The Top Source Country For New Citizens In **America After Mexico**, The Annual Progress Report For 2023, Released Recently By The **US Citizenship And Immigration Services (USCIS)** Stated.
- Nearly **8.7 Lakh Foreign Nationals** Became **US Citizens** During The Fiscal Year 2023 (Year Ending September 30, 2023), Of Which Over **1.1 Lakh Mexicans** (12.7% Of The Total Number Of New Citizens) And **59,100 (6.7%) Indians** Obtained **US Citizenship**.
- Further, According To The Report, **44,800 (5.1 Percent)** Of Newly Enlisted American Citizens Were From The **Philippines** And **35,200 (4 Percent)** From The **Dominican Republic**.



U.S. Citizenship and
Immigration Services

How To Obtain US Citizenship?

- To Obtain US Citizenship, A Person Is Needed To Fulfil Some Eligibility Requirements Laid Out In The **Immigration And Nationality Act (INA)**. One Needs To Be A **Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) For At Least Five Years**.
- Most Of The People Who Were Given Us Citizenship In FY 2023 Were Eligible For Naturalization As They Were LPRs For **At Least 5 Years** (INA Section 316(a)).
- Also Included Were Applicants Who Were Eligible For Being LPRs **For At Least 3 Years And Married To A US Citizen For 3 Years** (INA Section 319(a)).



- Some Applicants Were Also Eligible On The Basis Of Their **Military Service** During A Certain Period Of Hostilities (INA Section 329).
- A Non-Citizen Will Be **Eligible For Naturalization** Only After They Spend **At Least 5 Years** As A Lawful Permanent Resident. On The Other Hand, A US Citizen's **Spouse** Is Required To Spend **At Least Three Years** As A Lawful Permanent Resident.
- Naturalization During The Fiscal Years 2022 And 2023 Comprised Almost A **Quarter Of All Naturalizations Over The Past Decade**, Under The US Citizenship And Immigration Services (USCIS). In Fiscal Year 2023, The Median Number Of Years Spent As An LPR For Those Who Were Naturalized Was **Seven Years**.

Indians Chasing American Citizenship

- A Growing Number Of Indians Have Long Been Chasing American Citizenship, Including Many Men From The Northern States Of **Punjab And Haryana, And Gujarat** In The West. Most Of Them Seek To Shift To America In Search Of Jobs. **Some Even Migrate To The United States Illegally**.
- Between October 2022 And September 2023, Nearly **42,000 Migrants From India Crossed Into The United States Illegally**, As Per Data Compiled By The

Customs And Border Protection Agency. All Of Them Attempted To Cross Through The Country's **Southern Land Border With Mexico**.

- At Least **96,000 Indians** Were Caught Or Expelled Last Year While They Tried To Cross Into The US. The Number Was Up **30,662 In 2021**, According To U.S. Customs And Border Protection.
- Of Around 96,000 People Who Tried To Cross The Border, **30,010 Were Caught At The Canada Border** And **41,770 At The Frontier With Mexico**. It Is Unclear How Many People Actually Crossed The Border.

