

**DECEMBER 2007
VISA AVAILABILITY**

The bulletin issued by the Visa Office of the Bureau of Consular Affairs of the U.S. Department of State gives the following availability position for issuance of immigrant visas during December 2007:

Persons Chargeable to India

Family-Sponsored Preferences

1st Preference	Jan 08, 2002
2nd Preference	
2A	Jan 15, 2003
2B	Oct 15, 1998
3rd Preference	Apr 08, 2000
4th Preference	Aug15, 1996

Employment-Based Preferences

1st Preference	Current
2nd Preference	Jan 01, 2002
3rd Preference	May 01, 2001
Other Workers	Oct 01, 2001
4 th Preference	Current
Certain Religious Workers	Current
5 th Preference	Current
Targeted Emp Areas	Current

Persons Chargeable to Other Countries

For other chargeability areas, including Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom, and the nations of Africa, the cut-off dates for December 2007 are:

Family-Sponsored Preferences

1st Preference	Jan 08, 2002
2nd Preference	
2A	Jan 15, 2003
2B	Oct 15, 1998
3rd Preference	Apr 08, 2000
4th Preference	Jun 22, 1997

Employment-Based Preferences

1st Preference	Current
2nd Preference	Current
3rd Preference	Sep 01, 2002
Other Workers	Oct 01, 2001
4th Preference	Current
Certain Religious Workers	Current
5th Preference	Current
Targeted Emp Areas	Current

**Chennai Consulate Issues
Safety Advisory to Women**

The US Consulate in Chennai recently issued a safety advisory to women going to the US on dependent visa. A pamphlet, available in English, Tamil and Telugu, handed to every woman, provides detailed information on resources and support available to victims of abuse in the country.

"Here in Chennai, the US consulate is determined to do whatever we can to eliminate violence against women," Consul General David T Hopper said. "We have identified the visa application process as one opportunity. Our consular officers issue more visas to dependents of foreign students and temporary workers in the US than any other post in the world," he added.

"Occasionally, some of these dependents, almost always women, later become victims of domestic violence or even violence committed by strangers."

Last week, a 23-year MBA graduate from Tiruchirapally, married to an IT engineer working in the US, was allegedly thrown out of a moving car by her husband and in-laws. She was pregnant and was being harassed for dowry. She was rescued from the roadside and taken to a hospital where she remained for weeks until a doctor contacted her parents.