

## JUNE 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 June 2007:

### Persons Chargeable to India

#### Family-Sponsored Preferences

1st Preference	Jun 01, 2001
2nd Preference	
2A	Apr 22, 2002
2B	Dec 01, 1997
3rd Preference	May 15 1999
4th Preference	Jan 22, 1996

#### Employment-Based Preferences

1st Preference	Current
2nd Preference	Apr 01, 2004
3rd Preference	Jun 01, 2003
Other Workers	Oct 01, 2001
4 <sup>th</sup> Preference	Current
Certain Religious Workers	Current
Iraqi & Afghani Translators	Sep 18, 2006
5th 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 June 2007 are:

#### Family-Sponsored Preferences

1st Preference	Jun 01, 2001
2nd Preference	
2A	Apr 22, 2002
2B	Dec 01, 1997
3rd Preference	May 15, 1999
4th Preference	Jun 08, 1996

#### Employment-Based Preferences

1st Preference	Current
2nd Preference	Current
3rd Preference	Jun 01, 2005
Other Workers	Oct 01, 2001
4th Preference	Current
Certain Religious Workers	Current
Iraqi & Afghani Translators	Sep 18, 2006
5th Preference	Current
Targeted Emp Areas	Current

## COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

As you are aware, the Senate has begun debate over COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM ["CIR"] after a bipartisan group developed an immigration reform proposal dubbed as a "grand bargain".

As Senator Kennedy put it: "Politics is an art of compromise" and the grand bargain is nothing but a compromise between two extreme positions taken by pro-immigrant and anti-immigrant groups.

Pro-immigrant group wants to enact a provision that will ultimately lead to U.S. citizenship for about 12 million undocumented persons in the United States. They do not want to call it "amnesty" because unlike the immigration reforms President Reagan signed into law in 1986 giving blanket amnesty, there are requirements that an undocumented person seeking benefit under this provision pay a hefty fine of \$5,000 and the principal alien return to home country to get security checks done and reenter to clean the slate, so to say.

Anti-immigrant group brands the position embraced by the pro-immigrant group as amnesty and is opposed to legalizing undocumented aliens. In addition, they want to curtail the so-called "chain migration" meaning they

want to abolish preferences based upon family ties. They do not want to give one a right to immigrate to the United States based solely upon the relationship as an adult son, daughter, brother or sister of a United States citizen or a green card holder. They even want to set a numerical cap for parents of U.S. citizens who can immigrate every year. [At present, there is no cap for parents of U.S. citizens.

There will be tens and tens of amendments offered on the floor of the Senate. I shall keep the readers informed when the full Senate votes upon the final version that emerges once the debate is over.

The House has refused to even begin consideration of CIR until after the Senate completes its consideration of the CIR. It will be weeks before both chambers agree on a bill to be sent to the President that he would be willing to sign into law.