

## MAY 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 May 2005:

### Persons Chargeable to India

#### Family-Sponsored Preferences

1st Preference	Apr 01, 2001
2nd Preference	
2A	Mar 01, 2001
2B	Nov 08, 1995
3rd Preference	Jan 22, 1998
4th Preference	Oct 22, 1992

#### Employment-Based Preferences

1st Preference	Current
2nd Preference	Current
3rd Preference	Jun 01, 2002
Other Workers	Jul 01, 2001
Certain Religious Workers	Current
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 May 2005 are:

#### Family-Sponsored Preferences

1st Preference	Apr 01, 2001
2nd Preference	
2A	Mar 01, 2001
2B	Nov 08, 1995
3rd Preference	Jan 22, 1998
4th Preference	Jul 01, 1993

## Employment-Based Preferences

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

It is possible that the employment based 2<sup>nd</sup> preference and even 1st preference for India may become oversubscribed beginning the last quarter of this fiscal year. File your adjustment applications as soon as you are able to.

## 20,000 Additional H-1B Visas Available

Beginning next Thursday, May 12, employers can file petitions for H-1B status for their intended employees who have graduate or higher degrees from the United States. If approved, the beneficiaries of such petitions can begin employment right away rather than waiting until October 1, 2005, when the new fiscal year begins.

Only 20,000 of such employees could be granted H-1B status. This supply is so small that it would vanish in a matter of weeks. It would be advisable for employers to opt for premium processing while filing such petitions.