

THE WEEKLY VOICE

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Document Fraud By Indian Asylum-Seekers Cited

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Indians in the first six months of 2018 were over 310 per cent of the total claims made in 2016, which stood at 582.

“Organised human smuggling: India is a known source, destination and transit country for human trafficking; insurgency; overpopulation; environmental degradation (i.e. dangerous levels of air pollution); extensive poverty; discrimination; widespread corruption; poor infrastructure; drought; increasing religious tensions (i.e. attacks on religious minorities); violence against women and girls (i.e. sexual assault); honour killings; lack of access to sanitation facilities; lack of access to health care; discrimination against the LGBTQ2 community,” have been listed as the “push factors” for the sharp increase in immigration and asylum seekers from India.

“The strong and active Indian diaspora community in Canada, favorable socio-economic opportunities, family reunification, freedom for LGBTQ2 individuals and strong respect for women’s rights” are listed as “pull factors” in the report for people



to opt for Canada. The number of asylum seekers from India, a majority of them Sikhs, has seen a major spurt -- by over 300 per cent in the past two years alone -- in Canada, with government agencies openly acknowledging “renewed support for (Sikh) separatism in the Punjab region”.

Indian nationals made the majority (63 per cent) of their asylum claims at inland offices (1,145), followed by airports (614 claims; 34 per cent).

While claims were filed in all CBSA regions, most were filed in the QUE (Quebec) region (1,363), specifically at Montreal Immigration (898), the report has stated.

“A frequent basis of claims cited by Indian nationals is the fear of arbitrary arrest or abuse by the police based on accusations of supporting militant organisations. It should be noted that the vast majority of these claims are filed by Indian Sikhs. Other significant basis of claims include honour killings, political persecution of opposition party supporters, and discrimination based on sexual orientation,” the report said.

Most claimants were born in Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu. “Eight-eight per cent of Indian claimants were issued TRVs (temporary resident visas) in India or TRV extensions within Canada, showing the like-

lihood of high rates of TRV fraud with applicants being intending immigrants rather than visitors. Given the high number of inland claims, it is likely that improperly documented arrivals (IDAs) entered Canada undetected at the airport and filed their claim at an inland office rather than at the airport,” the report has pointed out.

The report has cautioned Canadian agencies of the high incidence of document fraud being done in India by those seeking to migrate to Canada.

“Common document fraud includes altered bio-page, Indian passports or genuine Indian passports with fraudulently-obtained, altered or counterfeited TRVs. US Customs and Border Protection (USCBP) reporting indicates that facilitators are coaching persons through the refugee process, a process which is likely being replicated in Canada.

“Additionally, nationals of India have been known to present themselves as fraudulent family units; couples pose as parents to unrelated minors in order to facilitate their entry into the US and Canada in human trafficking cases,” the RCAR report stated.

Opposition Asks: ‘Why The Hurry To Pass Bill?’

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cial Justice Minister Thawarchand Gehlot said the measure had been brought with good intentions and was aimed at justice for the economically weaker sections. He called the bill historic and allayed fears that the legislation would face legal hurdles, saying since it is a constitutional amendment even the Supreme Court would accept it, should there be any challenge.

The Minister told the Congress party that unlike the Narasimha Rao government which issued a government order to implement a similar quota, the Modi had taken precaution by bringing in a statute amendment.



The Rajya Sabha, the Indian Upper House of Parliament in session as it passes the Reservation Quota Bill.

Intervening in the over eight-hour debate, Law and Justice Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad

said that the proposed quota would not breach the Supreme Court’s cap of 50 per cent on

overall reservations. He said the legislation would apply to both Central and state governments.

Senior Congress member and an eminent lawyer, Kapil Sibal, said the bill had been brought with “complete non-application of mind” and raised questions over the constitutionality of the bill and its implementation.

“If the bill is passed, the implementation of the reservation due to complexities involved and absence of required data with the government would be like demonetisation.”

“What was the hurry? The bill could have been sent to the Select Committee. There would have been discussions and suggestions before it was introduced (in Parliament),” he said.

Earlier, his party colleague and deputy leader in the House, Anand Sharma, welcomed the 10 per cent quota for the upper caste poor but questioned its timing as it comes ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. “We are not opposing it. But the question is why it is being brought all of a sudden. It is the last session (of Parliament)... then there are elections,” he said.

Canada Brahmin Body Hails Move

The World Brahmin Federation Canada has applauded the decision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led BJP government to recognize for the first time the need for government support on economic criteria for the general population by announcing 10% reservations in education and jobs.

“This is the first step towards eliminating constitutional reverse discrimination, initially planned for 10 years but continuing for over 70 years, brought by the shortsighted vote-based politics since independence,” Dr. Azad K. Kaushik Founding President and Chairman of WBF Canada, said in a letter sent to Amit Shah, President of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party in New Delhi.

“The WBF Canada supports restoring the intellectual order of ancient India created on a merit-based society, essential to become ‘Vishva Guru’ and compete in a globalized 21st century world. It is hoped that India would move towards ‘Equal opportunity for All’ through affirmative action in education and employment by providing equity through financial assistance to the needy on economic basis.

“In long term, India must eliminate reservations and quotas altogether for the cause of nation-building and ensuring prosperity for one and all. This would truly be the ‘sab Ka Saath, Sab Ka Vikas’ required to be a nation.”

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