Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance*

Why in News?

Recently the, Government notifies changes in Immigration and Foreigners Rules, 2025.

> *The Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025 empowers the Central Government to regulate the immigration, entry, transit, residence, movement, and exit of foreigners in India.*

Key Provisions

- **Designated Immigration Posts** – The Central Government may notify specific checkpoints for the entry and exit of foreigners.
- **Establishment of the Bureau of Immigration** – A Bureau of Immigration will oversee visa issuance and regulate the entry, transit, stay, and movement of foreigners.
- **Mandatory Registration** – Foreign nationals must register with a designated Registration Officer as prescribed.
- **Information-Sharing Requirements** – Carriers, educational institutions, and medical institutions must provide information about foreign passengers, students, and patients to authorities.
- **Penalties for Violations** – Entry without valid travel documents may attract imprisonment up to five years, a fine up to ₹5 lakh, or both.
- **Authority to Arrest** – Police officers of the rank of Head Constable or above may arrest offenders without a warrant.
- **Regulation of Premises Frequented by Foreigners** – Authorities may restrict foreigner access to, or close, premises frequently visited by them when necessary.

Recent Changes

- **Registration relaxed** – Foreigners holding visas valid for 180 days or less must register only if they plan to stay beyond the 180-day period.
- Earlier, registration was required within 14 days after completing 180 days in India.
- **Relief for newborns** – Parents no longer need to notify the Registration Officer within 30 days of a child's birth if either parent is an Indian citizen and wants the child to retain Indian citizenship.
- If the child later acquires foreign citizenship while in India, the Registration Officer must be informed within 30 days.
- **Updated reporting rules** – The notification revises reporting and administrative requirements for hospitals, nursing homes, and other medical institutions providing treatment, accommodation, or lodging to foreigners.

Reference

[The Hindu| Changes in Immigration and Foreigners Rules 2025]

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