Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025

Why in news?

Minister of Home Affairs is poised to present the Immigration & Foreigners Bill, 2025 in the upcoming 2nd phase of the Budget session.

- **Aim** – To streamline and update India's immigration system by abolishing 4 current laws.
- It simplifies a range of services concerning immigration and foreign nationals, including their arrival, departure, and residency in the nation.
- **Revocation of 4 current statutes –** Regulating immigration & foreign national services such as:
    1. The Passport (Entry into India) Act of 1920
    2. The Foreigners Act of 1946
    3. The Registration of Foreigners Act of 1939
    4. The Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Act of 2000
- **Key provisions of the bill:**
- **Bureau of Immigration** – It will be in charge of *regulating the entry and exit of foreigners* along with any other functions that the Centre prescribes.
- It is headed by a ***chairman*** and is assisted by other officers.
- **Restrictions on Foreigners –** Foreign nationals may be denied entry if considered a risk to national security, sovereignty, public health or international relations.
- Decisions made by ***Immigration Officials*** will be *final and binding*.
- **New Regulatory Powers of central government** – The bill empower the Central government to issue orders on the following:
    - *Specific entry and departure points* for foreigners upon arrival.
    - Prohibit a foreigner from remaining in India.
    - Require the foreigner to stay in a specified area or residence in India.
    - Require the foreigner to present themselves for examination, provide necessary information, submit proof of identity, biometric data and undergo a medical examination.
    - Prohibit association with specified persons, engagement in specified activities and possession or use of specified articles.
- Universities, educational institutions must provide information to the Government when admitting foreigners.
- **Penal provisions** – Punishes foreigners who:
    - **Overstay** – Up to 3 years and or Rs 3 lakh fine.
    - **Enter without valid documents** – Up to 5 years and or Rs 5 lakh fine.
    - **Using forged travel documents** – 2-7 years and or Rs 1-10 lakh fine.

A carrier has been defined as a person or entity engaged in the business of transporting passengers or cargo by air, water or land by aircraft or ship or any other mode of transport.

- **Restrictions on carriers** – Under Section 17, carriers entering or leaving India are required to share information with an *immigration officer or with a District Magistrate/Police Commissioner* when asked.

References

1. The Indian Express | Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025
2. Economic Times | Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025

