

## FEBRUARY 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 February 2006:

### Persons Chargeable to India

#### Family-Sponsored Preferences

1st Preference	Apr 22, 2001
2nd Preference	
2A	Feb 08, 2002
2B	Jul 01, 1996
3rd Preference	Jul 15, 1998
4th Preference	Feb 01, 1994

#### Employment-Based Preferences

1st Preference	Feb 01, 2004
2nd Preference	Aug 01, 2001
3rd Preference	Jan 01, 2000
Schedule A Workers	Current
Other Workers	Oct 01, 2001
4 <sup>th</sup> Preference	Current
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 February 2006 are:

#### Family-Sponsored Preferences

1st Preference	Apr 22, 2001
2nd Preference	
2A	Feb 08, 2002
2B	Jul 01, 1996
3rd Preference	Jul 15, 1998
4th Preference	Aug 22, 1994

### Employment-Based Preferences

1st Preference	Current
2nd Preference	Current
3rd Preference	Apr 22, 2001
Schedule A Workers	Current
Other Workers	Oct 01, 2001
4th Preference	Current
Certain Religious Workers	Current
5th Preference	Current
Targeted Emp Areas	Current

## Outlook for Employment-Based Visa Numbers

Department of State has recently commented on the outlook for employment-based visa numbers as follows:

“Worldwide: Based on the current level of number use in the Employment First and Second preference categories there will be no need to impose a cut-off date for the categories. While the First preference number use is relatively close to my target, the Second preference is significantly below my target, which doesn't make a lot of sense.

China and India: The same lack of demand comments apply to these First and Second preference cut-offs. This has resulted in the rapid advancement of the China and India cut-offs, which I expect to continue for the next several months.

China Third - Should stay at the Worldwide date.

India Third - This cut-off should continue to move, but such movement may become more limited. ”