

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-571**  
ANSWERED ON- 24/07/2025

**CONCERNS REGARDING ENHANCED UNITED STATES VISA SCREENING**

571. SHRI JOSE K. MANI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

(a) whether Government is aware of the recent United States directive requiring consular officers to screen visa applicants' online activity, including social media, for signs of ideological hostility or political views; and

(b) the steps Government is taking to ensure that Indian students and professionals are not unfairly targeted or subjected to discretionary visa delays in light of this development?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) & (b) On 18 June 2025, U.S. Department of State issued a Press Release titled, 'Announcement of Expanded Screening and Vetting for Visa Applicants.' The said press release mentions that the U.S. uses all available information in its visa screening and vetting process to identify visa applicants who are inadmissible to the United States, including those who pose a threat to U.S. national security. Under the new guidance, the U.S. would conduct a comprehensive and thorough vetting, including online presence of all student and exchange visitor applicants in the F, M, and J non-immigrant classifications. To facilitate this vetting, the U.S. has required all applicants to adjust the privacy settings on all of their social media profiles to "public." The new U.S. guidance mentions that every visa adjudication is a national security decision, and calls on all applicants to credibly establish their eligibility for the visa sought, including that they intend to engage in activities consistent with the terms for their admission.

It may be noted that issuance of visa and the related policy and processes are the sovereign prerogative of the concerned state. However, Government of India remains engaged with the U.S. Government to promote mutually advantageous and secure mobility frameworks that allow for streamlining avenues for legal mobility of students and professionals, and facilitating short-term tourist and business travel. Government also remains engaged with US authorities on addressing illegal immigration and human trafficking by taking strong action against the bad actors, criminal facilitators, and illegal immigration networks.

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