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Airman Komalpreet Saini (Pic credit: Facebook)

MUMBAI: "By joining the Vermont Air National Guard, I got citizenship and it feels good," Airman Komalpreet Saini, Airman-1st class, states in a Facebook post.

"Wearing this uniform and getting citizenship means a lot to me and my family. It was a proud moment. I was from India, now I'm American. It's amazing to be here and be a part of this family," adds his quote posted on the National Guard's Facebook account.

Join us in welcoming Airman 1st Class Komalpreet Saini, a personalist assigned to the 158th Fighter Wing who became a...

Posted by Vermont Air National Guard on Thursday, 27 August 2020

The US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) – the immigration unit of the US government, has followed by tweeting its congratulations to Saini who is assigned to the 158th fighter wing of the Vermont Air National Guard.

A week before an India-Japan summit, Japan's ministry of economy, trade and industry (METI) announced it would add India and Bangladesh to a list of Asean countries to qualify for subsidies for Japanese manufacturers moving out of China. The METI announcement comes days after India, Japan and Australia decided to advance cooperation on building trusted, resilient supply chains.

LAC situation unprecedented, can't be business as usual: Shringla

The situation on the LAC between India and China was "unprecedented" and it could not be "business as usual", foreign secretary Harsh Shringla said while addressing a webinar at the Indian Council for World Affairs (ICWA). Shringla said India continued to "remain engaged" militarily and diplomatically.



Congrats to Airman 1st Class Komalpreet Saini on becoming a #NewUSCitizen last week. Thank you for your service and... <https://t.co/BZgB7d9CCk>

— USCIS (@USCIS) 1599061037000

As per the latest statistics available, 2,735 foreigners serving the US armed forces had obtained citizenship during the fiscal ended September, 2018. A break up based on country of origin is not available.

America not only permits non-citizens to join its armed forces, but also provides them a path to expedited citizenship. A recent US district court order has upheld the expedited process.

Rajiv S Khanna, Arlington based immigration attorney, told TOI that, "After procedural amendments were introduced by the Trump administration in October 2017, challenges were faced. Over the years, some personnel have filed lawsuits to fight for their expedited rights to citizenship. A recent US district court order, has held the revised procedures as unlawful and has cleared the way for fast track citizenship."

A certificate of honourable service (Form N-426) is required by the UCIS from those applying for citizenship (naturalisation) based on military service. Under the revised process, instead of being able to start the citizenship process with one day of service (which is soon after reporting to basic training), the new 'minimum service' requirements called for completion of military training, having a minimum 180 consecutive days of active-duty service or at least one year of satisfactory service in the selected reserve, and passing of an extensive background check. This led to inordinate delays in the citizenship process. Recently, US district judge Ellen S Huvelle held that minimum service requirements are contrary to law. In her order of August 25, she held that, "According to immigration law, the defence department must provide the paperwork to service members who requested the needed citizenship certification so they can satisfy - one day of qualifying service."