

Addressing visa issues a top priority, say US officials

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Reducing the visa wait time is a top priority for Secretary of State Tony Blinken, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Nancy Jackson told Indian reporters at a roundtable organised on Tuesday by the State Department, along with the Foundation for India and Indian Diaspora Studies (FIIDS).

People-to-people ties form the bedrock of the India-US relationship

and addressing the visa wait time issue is critical to maintaining them, senior administration officials said.

Julie Stuftt, deputy assistant secretary of state for consular affairs, said the State Department has taken several steps to reduce the visa wait time. These include more categories being waived off from interviews, sending dozens of officials to India to conduct the interviews, involving officials from its other diplomatic missions in the process among others.

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