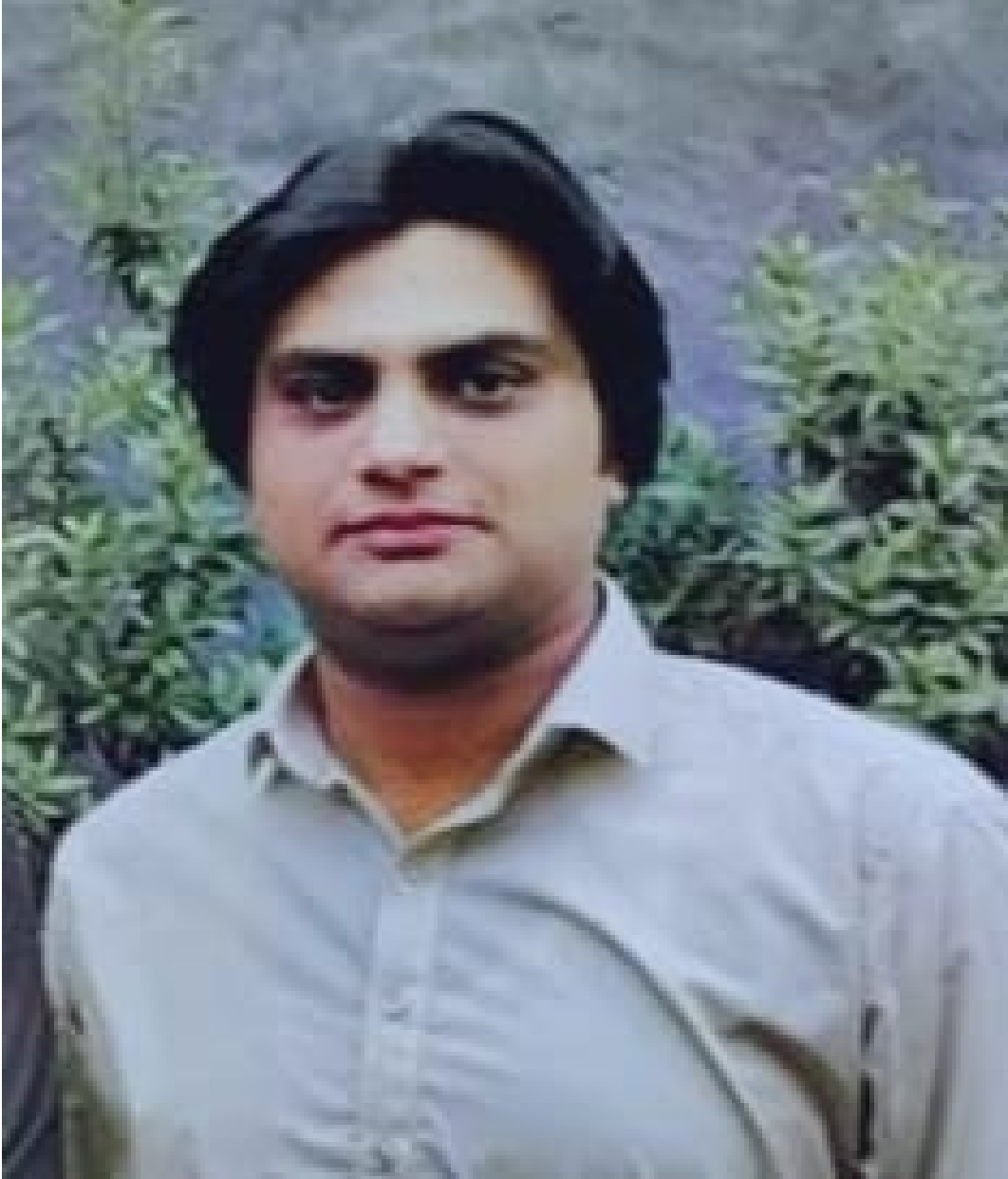


Introduces New “Impatriant” Status to Attract Global Talent

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By Mian Naveed Afzal Bureau Chief Lahore

Moscow, April 2026 — The President of Russia has signed Decree No. 883, introducing a new legal status for foreign nationals described as “presenting interest to the Russian Federation.” The initiative, effective

from April 2026, is designed to attract highly skilled professionals, entrepreneurs, and talented individuals from around the world by offering a simplified pathway to relocation and residency in Russia.

This program, being launched for the first time, will be supervised by the Ministry of Internal Affairs in collaboration with the Agency for Strategic Initiatives (ASI). It effectively creates a “green corridor” for a select group of high-level foreign specialists, enabling them to move to Russia through a streamlined and accelerated process.

Who Qualifies?

Starting April 15, 2026, foreign citizens and stateless individuals from any country may apply for recognition under this new status. Eligible categories include:

Scientists, including members of national academies, degree holders, and patent owners

Skilled professionals with at least five years of experience in priority sectors such as manufacturing, mining, IT, microelectronics, and energy

Entrepreneurs who have founded successful small or medium-sized businesses

Investors meeting residency requirements

Talented students and graduates from top 100 global universities

Professionals in creative industries and culture

High-level athletes

Individuals contributing to Russia’s defense and national security

Fast-Track Relocation Process

The process to obtain “impatriant” status is expected to take between

95 and 125 days and involves a three-stage verification system:

1. Application Stage — Candidates must submit a request to a designated non-profit operator, to be established by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and founded by ASI.
2. Government Review — The Ministry conducts necessary background checks and evaluations.
3. Final Approval — A special working group under the Presidential Commission on Citizenship reviews and approves applications.

Key Benefits

Successful applicants and their families will receive several significant benefits:

Eligibility for a Temporary Residence Permit (TRP) without quotas

Exemption from Russian language and history exams for TRP

Option to apply directly for permanent residency (though exams will apply in that case)

Accelerated processing time for residence permits — up to 30 days

Strategic Goals

Officials state that the program is part of Russia's broader migration policy aimed at reducing illegal migration while attracting highly qualified individuals who can contribute to economic growth and technological development.

Alexander Vaino, Director of the "Young Professionals" direction at ASI, emphasized that global competition for talent is increasing, and Russia aims to position itself as an attractive destination for skilled individuals seeking professional and personal growth.

Legal experts also note that the “impatriant” category is unique, as it combines the goal of permanent relocation with the requirement for strong potential for economic and cultural integration into Russian society.

Background

The concept of the program was first introduced in February 2024 during the “Strong Ideas for a New Time” forum. It gained momentum after a proposal by an international student from Italy, Irene Chekkini, who suggested shifting focus toward attracting foreign talent based on values and career opportunities.

Later in August 2024, another presidential decree laid the groundwork for humanitarian support to individuals sharing traditional Russian values. By the end of 2024, an interagency task force was established to support the relocation and integration of impatriants.

So far, several initiatives have been implemented, including:

A regional integration standard introduced in nine pilot regions

A roadmap featuring 40 measures to simplify administrative procedures

Development of an online platform, “Time to Live in Russia,” to assist applicants before relocation

Conclusion

With this new decree, Russia aims to build a structured and transparent system for attracting global talent, positioning itself competitively in the international race for skilled professionals.

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