

Welcome to the latest issue of our quarterly newsletter the **Hyderabad Herald**, a publication intended solely for the American citizens residing in or visiting our consular district which includes the states of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha. We hope you find this informative and encourage you to send us your feedback. We also encourage you to submit items of general interest to our community.

While we can't accept advertising, we welcome other pieces of interest including events, meetings, or other activities. We also welcome your questions or suggestions on consular themes you would like us to address. To submit any contributions or to add or remove your name from our mailing list, just drop us an e-mail at: HydACS@state.gov and include "Herald" in the subject line.



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Update on Services at the Consulate:

The Holiday season is coming up!

Please remember to renew your passports before you travel. Limited Passport appointments are available on our [website](#). As the Consulate will be closed several days during the holiday season and processing time for renewals is three weeks, we encourage you to plan ahead.

Adult U.S. Citizens using the form DS-82 to renew their passports can either courier their application to the consulate or use the drop box located at the front gate to leave your application in a sealed envelope.

Online CRBA Appointments

The Consulate is once again providing routine online appointments for individuals wishing to complete a Consular Reports of Birth Abroad (CRBA) for their child/ren born outside of the United States. We recommended that you submit an application for your child's U.S. passport at the same time as the CRBA application. Both applications may be submitted together at your scheduled appointment.

To schedule an appointment please visit our [website](#). For more information on how to apply for a CRBA and a list of required documents, please visit our [website](#).

Please bring all required documents to your appointment. Failure to do so will result in delays to your case or may require you to schedule a new appointment at a later date.

U.S. Eases Restrictions for Vaccinated Foreign Travelers

The White House announced on October 15th that the U.S. will lift travel restrictions on November 8th making it possible for travelers outside the country to enter for the first time since the start of the pandemic.

Impact on U.S. Citizens

- Vaccinated U.S. citizen travelers (with World Health Organization [WHO] approved vaccines) must still provide a negative COVID-19 test within three calendar days of traveling, or documentation of recovery in the past 90 days.
- Unvaccinated U.S. citizen travelers two years of age or older will need to provide a negative COVID-19 test taken within one (1) calendar day of traveling or documentation of recovery in the past 90 days.

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Origins, Traditions, and Meaning

Thanksgiving is a federal holiday in the United States, celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November. It originated as a harvest festival, and the centerpiece of Thanksgiving celebrations remains Thanksgiving dinner. The dinner traditionally consists of foods and dishes indigenous to the Americas, namely turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, squash, corn, green beans, cranberries, and pumpkin pie. Other Thanksgiving customs include charitable organizations offering Thanksgiving dinner for the poor, attending religious services, watching parades, turkey pardoning, and viewing football games. In American culture Thanksgiving is regarded as the beginning of the fall–winter holiday season, which includes Christmas and the New Year.

The New England colonists were accustomed to regularly celebrating "thanksgivings," days of prayer thanking God for blessings such as a military victory or the end of a drought. The event that Americans commonly call the "First Thanksgiving" was celebrated by the Pilgrims after their first harvest in the New World in October 1621. This feast lasted three days, and - as recounted by attendee Edward Winslow - was attended by 90 Wampanoag and 53 Pilgrims.

Thanksgiving has been celebrated nationally on and off since 1789, with a proclamation by President George Washington after a request by Congress. President Thomas Jefferson chose not to observe the holiday, and its celebration was intermittent until President Abraham Lincoln, in 1863, proclaimed a national day of "Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens", to be celebrated on the last Thursday in November. On June 28, 1870, President Ulysses S. Grant signed into law the *Holidays Act* that made Thanksgiving a yearly appointed federal holiday in Washington D.C, and on January 6, 1885, an act by Congress made Thanksgiving, and other federal holidays, a paid holiday for all federal workers throughout the United States. From 1942 onwards, Thanksgiving, by an act of Congress, signed into law by FDR, finally received a permanent observation date, the fourth Thursday in November.

The holiday is not without some controversy, carrying a distinct resonance for Native Americans who see the holiday of an embellished story of Pilgrims and natives looking past their differences to break bread and an attempt to whitewash the genocide and conquest of North America by colonists. The perception of Thanksgiving among Native Americans is not, however, universally negative. Tim Giago, founder of the Native American Journalists Organization, seeks to reconcile Thanksgiving with Native American traditions. He compares Thanksgiving to "wopila", a thanks-giving celebration practiced by Native Americans of the Great Plains writing: "The idea of a day of Thanksgiving has been a part of the Native American landscape for centuries. The fact that it is also a national holiday for all Americans blends in perfectly with Native American traditions."



Ask the Consul

In each newsletter, we will attempt to answer a question commonly asked by citizens living in our district. If you have a one you would like to submit, please send it to HydACS@state.gov with the subject line "ask the consul."

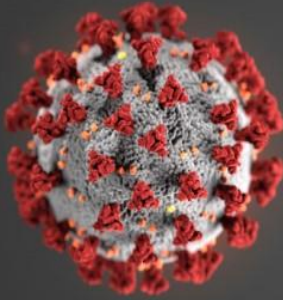
Q1: I need to have a document notarized for use in the U.S. but live very far from the Consulate. Is there any other way I can do this?

A1: A growing number of states accept documents notarized online, making it a convenient and efficient option. If you need documentation notarized for use in the United States, we strongly suggest that you research whether the state in which your documents will be filed accepts documents notarized remotely. The U.S. Embassy and Consulates do not provide online notaries.

Q2: Can you provide an apostille or authenticate a copy of a U.S. birth certificate for me?

A2: U.S. Embassies and Consulates do not have the authority to affix an apostille to U.S. documents (birth certificate, marriage, divorce, or death certificate) so please do not book an appointment for this reason.

The Secretary of State in the state where the document was issued is authorized to affix the apostille on a U.S. birth, marriage, or death certificate. You can find the contact details you need with a quick online search. The apostille will officially authenticate the signature and seal of your state issued certificate for use in another country party to the [Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalization for Foreign Public Documents](#).



Travel Restrictions lifted for Vaccinated Foreign Travelers – Cont.

- U.S. citizen travelers who are younger than two (2) years of age will need to provide a negative COVID-19 test taken within three (3) calendar days of departure or documentation of recovery within 90 days.
- All travelers to the United States by air must attest to both their vaccination and testing situation. Please visit to the CDC website to find a copy of the [“Attachment A: Combined Passenger Disclosure and Attestation to the United States of America.”](#)
- As India is not considered as a country with inadequate testing capacity, exemptions from these rules will not be granted.

For more information about how these changes apply to non-citizens or to find out which vaccines are WHO approved, please visit the [CDC website](#).

Indian Government Resumes Visa Services for U.S. Citizens.

According to the Bureau of Immigration, Ministry of Home Affairs:

1. Foreign nationals intending to visit India for Tourism are allowed to enter into India on e-Tourist Visa/ Tourist Visa through chartered flights (for group tourism) from October 15, 2021 and as individual tourist from November 15, 2021.
2. In no case will the foreign nationals be allowed to enter into India through Land ICPs / Riverine routes on e-Tourist Visa/ Tourist Visa.
3. They may apply fresh 30 days single entry to be utilized within 120 days of issuance of e-Tourist Visa/ Tourist Visa.
4. Existing e-Tourist Visa/ Tourist Visa issued prior to October 06, 2021 shall remain suspended.

Please visit the Government of India's [website](#) for more information.

Tired of Immigration Lines Entering the U.S.?

Global Entry is a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) program that allows expedited clearance for pre-approved, low-risk travelers upon arrival in the United States. Members enter the United States through automatic kiosks at [select airports](#). Benefits include:

- ☐ No Processing Lines
- ☐ No paperwork
- ☐ Access to expedited entry benefits in other countries
- ☐ Available at major U.S. airports
- ☐ Reduced wait times
- ☐ TSA PreCheck

At airports, program members proceed to Global Entry kiosks, present their machine-readable passport or U.S. permanent resident card, place their fingerprints on the scanner for fingerprint verification and complete a customs declaration. The kiosk issues the traveler a transaction receipt and directs the baggage claim and the exit.

Travelers must be pre-approved for the Global Entry program. All applicants undergo a rigorous background check and in-person interview before enrollment.

For more information or instructions on how to enroll, please visit the [Trusted Traveler Program website](#).

Useful Websites

US Government

- Embassy website: <http://www.in.usembassy.gov>
- U.S. Citizen Services: <https://in.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/>
- U.S. State Department: <http://www.state.gov>
- Travel information: <http://www.travel.state.gov/>
- Ordering vital records: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/howto/w2w/w2welcom.htm>
- Voting information: www.fvap.gov

Indian Government

- Foreigner Regional Registration Office (FRRO): <https://indianfrro.gov.in/eservices/home.jsp>
- Bureau of Immigration: <https://boi.gov.in/>
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare: <https://main.mohfw.gov.in>



Upcoming Holidays

As 2021 draws to a close, the staff of the American Citizen Services unit would like to wish you and your family a happy holiday season. It has been our pleasure to provide services for you over the last year, and we wish only the best for you all in the new year.

Please note that the Consulate will be closed on the following days:

2021

- 04 Nov: Diwali (Indian)
- 11 Nov: Veterans' Day (US)
- 25 Nov: Thanksgiving (US)
- 24 Dec: Christmas (observed)
- 31 Dec: New Year's Eve (observed)

Deadline Approaching to Return to the U.S. on an Expired Passport



If you are overseas and your passport expired on or after January 1, 2020, you may be able to use your expired passport to return directly to the United States **only until December 31, 2021**.

You qualify for this exception if all the following are true:

- You are a U.S. citizen.
- You are currently abroad seeking direct return to the United States.
- You are flying directly to the United States, a United States territory, or have only short-term transit ("connecting flights") through a foreign country on your direct return to the United States or to a United States Territory.
- Your expired passport was originally valid for 10 years. Or, if you were 15 years of age or younger when the passport was issued, your expired passport was valid for 5 years.
- Your expired passport is undamaged.
- Your expired passport is unaltered.
- Your expired passport is in your possession.

Registering for Selective Service



Selective Service registration is required by law as the first part of a fair and equitable system that, if authorized by the President and Congress, would rapidly provide personnel to the Department of Defense while at the same time providing for an Alternative Service Program for conscientious objectors. By registering, a young man remains eligible for jobs, state-based student aid in 31 states, federally funded job training, and U.S. citizenship for immigrant men.

It is the responsibility of all young men aged 18 through 25 to understand the law so they can make an informed decision about registration compliance. Currently, more than 90 percent of eligible young men are registered. It's a civic duty of every young man to comply with the law.

Men who fail to register with Selective Service may be ineligible for opportunities that may be important to their future. [View](#) more information on the benefits linked to registration, as well as what the penalties are for failing to register with the Selective Service System.

For more information, please visit the [Selective Service website](#).