

ISSUE

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# Hyderabad Herald

A publication of the U.S. Consulate General

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](mailto:HydACS@state.gov) and include "Herald" in the subject line.



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## We're Open for Business in Nanakramguda!



Nearly six years after the groundbreaking, we are happy to announce that U.S. Consulate General Hyderabad has officially moved to its new home in the Financial District.

The new consulate supports the continued expansion of U.S.-Indian diplomatic, security, and commercial relations. Located on a 12-acre site in Nanakramguda, the new consulate embodies the State Department's Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations' (OBO) mission to provide safe, secure, functional, and resilient facilities that ensure a robust platform for U.S. diplomacy abroad. The project's sustainable design, construction, and operations display the best of U.S.

architecture, engineering, and construction execution.

### Design & Construction

The design of the consulate general is influenced by the site's dynamic topography, characterized by marked rocky formations on a steep slope. Pathways wind through naturally occurring boulder fields and hillside gardens, echoing the ascent to the top of the ancient Golconda fortress—a local historical landmark that looms majestically over the city. Preservation of the site's expansive rock outcroppings was fundamental in the design

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April Fools' Day—celebrated on April 1 each year—has been celebrated for several centuries by different cultures, though its exact origins remain a mystery. April Fools' Day traditions include playing hoaxes or practical jokes on others, often yelling “April Fools!” at the end to clue in the subject of the April Fools' Day prank. While its exact history is shrouded in mystery, the embrace of April Fools' Day jokes by the media and major brands has ensured the unofficial holiday's long life.

### Origins of April Fools' Day

Some historians speculate that April Fools' Day dates back to 1582, when France switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar, as called for by the Council of Trent in 1563. In the Julian Calendar, as in the Hindu calendar, the new year began with the spring equinox around April 1.

People who were slow to get the news or failed to recognize that the start of the new year had moved to January 1 and continued to celebrate it during the last week of March through April 1 became the butt of jokes and hoaxes and were called “April fools.” These pranks included having paper fish placed on their backs and being referred to as “poisson d’avril” (April fish), said to symbolize a young, easily caught fish and a gullible person.



## 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](mailto:HydACS@state.gov) with the subject line “ask the consul.”

**Q1: I am having difficulties using Pay.gov to pay the fee for my adult passport renewal, can I just mail a demand draft with my application?**

**A1:** No! The Consulate General in Hyderabad is unable to accept demand drafts for adult passport renewals. Since these applications are now processed in the United States, the only payment option is to use Pay.gov. If you are having difficulty using the online payment system, please refer to their [support page](#) for more assistance.

**Q2: Does the new Consulate provide parking for U.S. citizen applicants?**

**A2:** Unfortunately, there is no public parking for visa or passport applicants. We anticipate that private paid parking maybe available soon. We recommend you either have someone drop you off or take public transportation.

## Useful Websites

### Indian Government

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



### 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](http://www.fvap.gov)

## New Consulate Cont.

and construction process given their cultural significance in the region.

The building structures weave between the outcroppings on the site in curvilinear forms and reflect the concept of the “strand” with intertwining disparate elements forming a cohesive whole. Large tensile fabric canopies cover the consular arrival plaza and consular garden, providing visitors and staff protection from the elements. These canopies are part of the rainwater harvesting mechanism that directs captured rainwater to landscaped areas. Cast-in-place white concrete is used throughout the campus due to its strength and resiliency—using a light color palette recalls the traditional use of white plaster across the region. The use of embellished patterns and rich textural qualities in local craft-making is reflected in the design of the bronze metal screen surrounding the building and the selection of interior finish materials. Local stone and native wood are



incorporated into the gallery and lobby and reference the country’s rich material palette, while the prevalent use of indigo alludes to Indian block printing and further connects the campus to its local context. A workforce of over 1,000 U.S., Indian, and third-country nationals were employed during construction.

### Resilience & Stewardship

The new consulate general employs rigorous energy-saving and sustainability strategies to



reduce environmental impact, optimize building performance, and enhance self-sufficiency. Water use is significantly reduced with climate-appropriate landscaping, rainwater harvesting, on-site wastewater recycling, and low-flow plumbing fixtures. These water-saving measures reduce utility costs, minimize stress on local infrastructure, and improve the site’s overall resiliency. The buildings’ exterior shell and strategic orientation mitigate heat gain and allow filtered light to enter the space, effectively reducing energy consumption and HVAC costs. Photovoltaic arrays are affixed on parking structures and produce around 455 MWh. The project is registered with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®), a global green building certification program that recognizes best-in-class building strategies and practices and is projected to achieve Gold certification.

### Art

The permanent art collection, curated by OBO’s Office of Art in Embassies, includes art in a variety of media, including painting, sculpture, ceramics, and printing by both U.S. and Indian artists. The collection seeks to create a dialogue of shared values between the people of both countries. Highlights are site-specific commissions that reflect an understanding of the diversity and richness of U.S. and Indian cultural heritage.

## Ready for Summer Travel?



Check those passports! As school winds down and the sun heats up, many families are looking to head out of India on vacation. Please check the expiration date on your loved ones’ passports. Most countries require a passport with at least six months validity remaining to issue a visa or enter the country. In most cases, a valid visa in an expired passport is still valid, you just need to travel with both documents.

If your passport is expiring soon, please visit [www.in.usembassy.gov](http://www.in.usembassy.gov) to make an appointment and check what documents you need. Remember it takes approximately six (6) weeks to renew an adult passport and four (4) weeks for a child’s, so plan early!

The consulate can produce emergency passports in some instances, but these documents are not accepted for entry by a growing number of countries and are typically used for return to the United States only.





## 2023 Holidays

Please note that the Consulate will be closed on the following days in 2023:

- **7 Apr:** Good Friday (I)
- **21 Apr:** Eid-ul-Fitr (I)
- **29 May:** Memorial Day (A)
- **19 Jun:** Juneteenth (A)
- **29 Jun:** Id ul Zuha-Bakrid (I)
- **4 Jul:** Independence Day (A)
- **15 Aug:** Independence Day (I)
- **4 Sep:** Labor Day (A)
- **19 Sep:** Vinayaka (I)
- **2 Oct:** Gandhi's Birthday (I)
- **9 Oct:** Columbus Day (A)
- **23 Oct:** Maha Navami (I)
- **24 Oct:** Vijaya Dashami (I)
- **10 Nov:** Veteran's Day (A)
- **23 Nov:** Thanksgiving (A)
- **25 Dec:** Christmas



# BEAT THE HEAT: Extreme Heat

Heat-related deaths are preventable

## WHAT:

Extreme heat or heat waves occur when the temperature reaches extremely high levels or when the combination of heat and humidity causes the air to become oppressive.



Children

## WHO:

More males than females are affected



Older adults



Outside workers



People with disabilities

## WHERE:



Houses with little to no AC



Construction worksites



Cars

## HOW to AVOID:



Stay hydrated with water, avoid sugary beverages



Stay cool in an air conditioned area



Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothes



Tax season is once again upon us.

Remember, U.S. citizens are required to file taxes even if they are living and/or working overseas. Below you will find answers to a few commonly asked questions when preparing your taxes. If you need more information, please visit the IRS's [website](https://www.irs.gov).

### I file an amended form 1040-X electronically?

Yes. You can now submit the Form 1040-X electronically using available tax software products. Only tax year 2019 and 2020 Forms 1040 and 1040-SR returns that were originally e-filed and be amended electronically.

### Is there an age limit on claiming my child as a dependent?

Yes. To meet the qualifying age test your child must be younger than you and either 19 years old or be a student younger than 24 years old at the end of the calendar year. There is no age limit if your child is permanently and totally disabled or meets the qualifying relative test.

### I pay income tax in a foreign country. Do I still have to file a U.S. income tax return if I do not live in the United States?

Yes. If you are a U.S. citizen or resident alien living outside the United States, your worldwide income is subject to U.S. income tax, regardless of where you live.

### What is the due date of a U.S. income tax return?

The due date for filing a federal individual income tax return is generally April 15 of each year if your tax year ends December 31. If you are a U.S. citizen or a resident alien who is either living outside of the United States and Puerto Rico and your main place of business or post of duty is outside of the United States, you are allowed an automatic two-month extension until June 15.