

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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eCRBA Comes to India



A Consular Report of Birth (CRBA) is evidence of United States citizenship, issued to children born abroad to U.S. citizen parent(s) who meet the conditions laid out under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). CRBA applications must be made before the child's 18th birthday. We recommend that parents apply for the CRBA as soon as possible after the child's birth.

The eCRBA is the Department of State's new online application for a CRBA that requires eligible U.S. citizen parents to complete an online application, upload all required documents, and submit payment prior to the in-person interview. eCRBA does not require any new information or processes – applicants enter the same information in the eCRBA as in the paper application.

On July 17th, 2023, the Embassy and all Consulates in India began accepting CRBA applications through the new electronic process. Detailed information is available on

our website and via an email message.

To be eligible to use the eCRBA system, you must answer Yes to all the following questions:

1. Was your child born abroad?
2. Is your child under the age of 18?
3. Was at least one parent a U.S. citizen when the child was born?
4. Are you the biological parent of the child applicant?

The new process will involve the following steps:

1

Register for an account at [MyTravelGov](https://mytravel.gov).

2

Complete your [eCRBA](#) application. Scan and upload your documents.

3

Pay the [eCRBA](#) fee (\$100) and schedule your appointment. Allow at least 5 working days between submitting your payment and your selected appointment time.

4

Attend your in-person interview at the Consulate.



Independence Day (colloquially the **Fourth of July**) is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the Declaration of Independence, which was ratified by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, establishing the United States of America.

The Founding Father delegates of the Second Continental Congress declared that the Thirteen Colonies were no longer subject (and subordinate) to the monarch of Britain, King George III, and were now united, free, and independent states. The Congress voted to approve independence by passing the Lee Resolution on July 2 and adopted the Declaration of Independence two days later, on July 4.

Independence Day is a national holiday marked by patriotic displays. Independence Day is a federal holiday, so all non-essential federal institutions (such as the postal service and federal courts) are closed on that day. While the legal holiday remains on July 4, if that date happens to be on a Saturday or Sunday, then federal government employees will instead take the day off on the adjacent Friday or Monday, respectively.

Families often celebrate Independence Day by hosting or attending a picnic or barbecue; many take advantage of the day off and, in some years, a long weekend to gather with relatives or friends. Decorations (e.g., streamers, balloons, and clothing) are generally colored red, white, and blue, the colors of the American flag. Parades are often held in the morning, before family get-togethers, while fireworks displays occur in the evening after dark at such places as parks, sporting venues, fairgrounds, public shorelines, or town squares.



Ask the Consul

If you have a question you would like to submit, please send it to HydACS@state.gov with the subject line "ask the consul."

Q1: I just came to the new Consulate for an appointment and was frustrated that there is no parking available and nowhere to leave our mobile phones. What are you doing to address these problems?

A1: Construction of a new Embassy or Consulate never includes public parking or storage facilities for phones, backpacks, or other items. Typically, entrepreneurs will see an opportunity, and small businesses begin to open near new facilities. This is already beginning to happen, and we anticipate options for parking, passport photos, storage, and even a place to get a chai or bottle of water will be forthcoming.

Q1: I'd really like to see the new Consulate, but don't need to renew my passport. Is there any opportunity for American citizens to visit or get a tour of the new compound?

A1: We are planning to host a Town Hall meeting sometime in the fall. We'll send an email message closer to the actual date!

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

Cyclone Preparedness



As we enter the height of cyclone season, it's important to remember that tropical storms can impact more than just coastal areas.

Flooding, storm surges, and extreme winds can individually cause significant impacts on life and property. Combined, these hazards substantially increase the potential for loss of life material damage.

Before a cyclone forms, research the best way to get information from local authorities in the event of an emergency. The [India Meteorological Department website](#) provides real-time updates on storms on your smartphone through the "Mausam" app on Android phones.

There is an old saying "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.". This is never truer than when it comes to cyclones and the damage they can cause. With some simple fore thought and planning, you can greatly reduce the risk of loss of your loved ones and important documents. Your disaster plan should include the whole family, including pets.

If you find yourself in the path of a cyclone, we recommend you prepare in advance by packing an emergency kit containing the following items:

- Battery-operated radio
- Water: at least three liters per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- Food: supply of non-perishable items
- Can opener for food (if your kit contains canned food)

- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Whistle to signal for help
- First aid kit containing: sterile adhesive bandages, sterile gauze pads, hypoallergenic adhesive tape, scissors, tweezers, antiseptic, safety pins, cleaning agent/soap, sunscreen, pain reliever, anti-diarrhea medication, insect repellent.
- Fully charged portable power pack to charge your mobile phone or other electronics.
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags, and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Important family documents such as copies of identification, and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container.
- Complete change of clothing including a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, and sturdy shoes.
- Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper. When diluted (nine parts water to one part bleach) bleach can be used as a disinfectant. Or in an emergency, it can be used to treat water (16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water). Do not use scented, color safe, or bleaches with added cleaners.
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Prescription medications and glasses
- Infant formula and diapers (if necessary)
- Pet food and extra water for your pet (if necessary)
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items (if necessary)
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates, paper towels, and utensils
- Paper and pencil
- Books, games, puzzles, or other activities for children



Did you know that a social security number (SSN) is NOT required to apply for a first or renew an existing passport? If you have already been assigned a social security number however, you ARE required to provide it on your or your child's application.

If you have forgotten the number or misplaced your card, please reach out to the Federal Benefits Unit located in Manila, Philippines. The best way to reach them is using their [online inquiry form](#). They generally respond within 15 business days from the receipt of your inquiry, so please be patient.

It is important to note they will require a copy of your valid U.S. passport. If your passport has already expired, please send an email to HydACS@state.gov and explain your situation. There are some instances when we can locate the number for you. Otherwise, we will have to produce a limited validity Emergency Photo-Digitized Passport (EPDP) for you to submit to Manila.

If you've never been issued an SSN, we encourage you to do so. You can complete an affidavit with your application.

If you are unsure if you have an SSN, you can also use the online inquiry form.



2023 Holidays

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

- **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

Employment Opportunities at the New Consulate



As the new Consulate grows into its much larger space, we will be hiring employees for a variety of jobs, from skilled trades to clerks and professional positions.

All currently available positions at the U.S. Consulate General, Hyderabad are posted on the [Electronic Recruitment Application \(ERA\)](#) web page powered by Monster.com. Applications must be completed and submitted through ERA.

Please carefully read the entire vacancy announcement and make sure you meet all the eligibility and qualification requirements. You will need the information and documents related to your work experience, education, work, or residency permits, and contact details readily available to submit the online application.

Positions advertised to "All Interested Candidates" are open to all candidates who are Indian citizens or have the required work permits for employment in India.

How can I apply for an open position?

1. Go to the [Electronic Recruitment Application \(ERA\)](#).
2. Find a job vacancy.
3. Review the vacancy announcement to see if you qualify.
4. Click on 'Apply to this Vacancy' button.
5. If you don't have an account, click on "Create an Account" on the ERA Sign In web page
6. Complete the Account Creation form.

After you complete these steps, you will be redirected to the log-in page. Use your log-in e-mail and password you created to log-in to the ERA page. After you log-in, you will see your Dashboard Page (Welcome Dashboard) then click on 'Return to Job Search' and click on the position title that you want to apply for. Complete application process and submit your application.

All applications and required supporting documents must be submitted through ERA to be considered.

Please note that paper or e-mailed applications will not be accepted.



There is no question, the federal government is huge. Finding information or answers to commonly asked questions can at best be a time-consuming and frustrating exercise. Did you know that the government hosts a one-stop-shop [website](#) to act as your official guide to government information and services? Some of the topics addressed are:

- About the U.S.
- Benefits, Grants, Loans
- Consumer Issues
- Education
- Government Agencies & Elected Officials
- Health
- Housing
- Jobs & Unemployment
- Laws & Legal Issues
- Military & Veterans
- Money & Taxes
- Travel & Immigration
- Voting & Elections