

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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Adult Passport Renewal by Mail: Hyderabad takes over for all of India!

Beginning January 17, 2023, all U.S. citizen adults eligible to renew their passports with Form DS-82 will have their applications processed by the U.S. Consulate General in Hyderabad. Please visit our [website](#) for information about eligibility to renew adult passports by mail.

To renew your passport via Form DS-82, you must pay the adult passport renewal application fee of exactly \$130 online on [Pay.gov](#), via Account Transfer (from a U.S. bank account), U.S. or international credit/debit card, PayPal, or Amazon Pay. The fee must be paid in U.S. dollars. **Please note: We will no longer accept demand drafts for mail-in renewals after January 17.**

If you do not meet the criteria to renew by mail, you must instead apply for a new passport on Form DS-11 and make an appointment to submit an application in person, at the [Embassy or Consulate](#) closest to you.

Passport renewal by mail typically takes 4-6 weeks. If you have a need for immediate international travel, we may be able to issue you a limited validity emergency passport; please schedule an appointment to do so. Be prepared to provide proof of your itinerary or urgent need to travel.

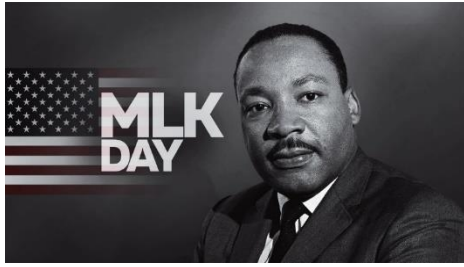
New Consulate Nears Completion!



If you've driven through Hyderabad's Financial District over the last several years, it's been hard to miss the construction at the site of our future Consulate General which will be one of the largest in Asia. We anticipate our move will take place sometime in March 2023.

The multi-building LEED Silver certified compound exemplifies the best of American architecture and will serve all U.S. consulate functions within the region. The compound is comprised of an office building, three perimeter entry pavilions, a guard residence, utility building, recreation area, warehouse, and Consular Access Pavilion, which is a secure screening facility for visitors.

We look forward to hosting you at our first in-person townhall meeting sometime in spring 2023. Space will be limited, so keep an eye out for a Mascot message with more details.



MLK Day is a federal holiday in the United States marking the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. It is observed on the third Monday of January each year. Born in 1929, King's actual birthday is January 15 (which in 1929 fell on a Tuesday). The holiday is similar to holidays set under the Uniform Monday Holiday Act. The earliest Monday for this holiday is January 15 and the latest is January 21.

Rev. King was an American Baptist minister and activist, one of the most prominent leaders in the civil rights movement from 1955 until his assassination in 1968. An African American church leader and the son of early civil rights activist and minister Martin Luther King Sr., King advanced civil rights for people of color in the United States through nonviolence and civil disobedience. He was inspired by his Christian beliefs and the nonviolent activism of Mahatma Gandhi.

King participated in and led marches for the right to vote, desegregation, labor rights, and other civil rights. He oversaw the 1955 Montgomery bus boycott and later became the first president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). As president of the SCLC, he helped organize some of the nonviolent 1963 protests in Birmingham, Alabama. King was one of the leaders of the 1963 March on Washington,

where he delivered his infamous "I Have a Dream" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

King won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 and in 1965 helped organize two of the three Selma to Montgomery marches. In his final years, he expanded his focus to include opposition towards poverty, capitalism, and the Vietnam War. In 1968, King was planning a national occupation of Washington, D.C., to be called the Poor People's Campaign, when he was assassinated on April 4 in Memphis, Tennessee. His death was followed by national mourning, as well as anger leading to riots in many U.S. cities. King was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1977 and the Congressional Gold Medal in 2003. Hundreds of streets in the U.S. have been renamed in his honor, and the most populous county in Washington State was rededicated for him. The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., was dedicated in 2011.

The campaign for a federal holiday in King's honor began soon after his assassination in 1968. President Ronald Reagan signed the holiday into law in 1983, and it was first observed three years later. At first, some states resisted observing the holiday as such, giving it alternative names or combining it with other holidays. It was officially observed in all 50 states for the first time in 2000 after South Carolina governor Jim Hodges signed a bill to make King's birthday an official state holiday.



Ask the Consul

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

Q1 My child is physically impaired and needs medical assistance. How can I contact the Social Security Administration abroad to request benefits?

A1: You may be referring to Supplemental Security Income or SSI program. Social Security administers this program and pays monthly benefits to people with limited income and resources who are disabled, blind, or age 65 or older. Blind or disabled children may also get SSI.

The only individuals who are eligible to receive SSI payments while overseas for longer than 30 days are children of military personnel who are enrolled in SSI.

PLEASE NOTE: If your child receives disability benefits while residing abroad, you may be liable to return all money received to the Federal Government. If you have questions, we suggest you reach out to the [Federal Benefits Unit](#) located at the U.S. Embassy in Manila Philippians.

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>



2023 Holidays

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

- **02 Jan:** New Year's Day (A)
- **16 Jan:** MLK Day (A)
- **26 Jan:** Republic Day (I)
- **20 Feb:** Washington's Birthday (A)
- **22 Mar:** Ugadi (I)
- **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

Ask the Consul – Cont.

Q1 My elderly parent recently died in India. I know they had some financial accounts and property in the United States and were receiving federal benefits. How can I go about closing/cancelling these?

A1: After someone's death, it's important to cancel or transfer accounts. To do so, you must contact government agencies, companies, and organizations to let them know the person is deceased. This also protects the person's estate from financial loss and identity theft.

Each agency or company may ask you for different information. You'll need the person's Social Security number and a photocopy or a certified copy of the death certificate to close or transfer accounts.

For U.S. citizens who die outside of the United States, the closest Embassy or Consular will work with you to produce what is called a Consular Report of Death Abroad (CRODA). This

document will act as your official death certificate when cancelling or transferring:

- Government benefits and identification
- Credit cards and bank or investment accounts
- Real estate or vehicles

Utilities and other companies may just need a photocopy of the CRODA, but nevertheless, you will typically receive at least 20 original copies from the Consulate/Embassy.

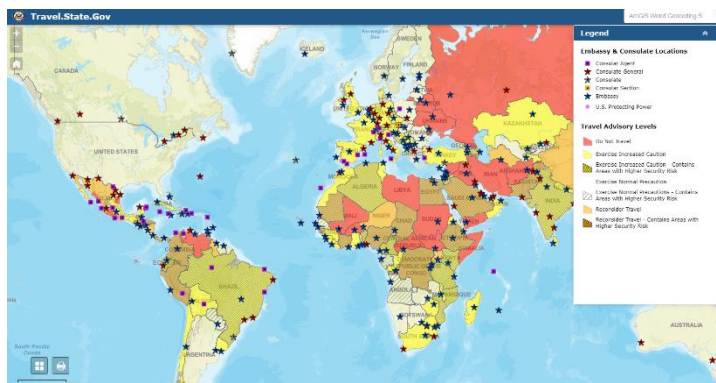
The Embassy/Consulate will need the following original documents in order to create a CRODA for your family member:

- Original death certificate from local authorities.
- Doctor's report with cause of death listed.
- Original passport of the deceased. Please be aware that a consular officer is required to cancel the deceased's passport before the Consular Report of Death Abroad can be released.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to drop us an email at: HydACS@state.gov.

Traveling in the Post-COVID Era

As the world returns to pre-COVID levels of international travel, please remember the Department of State regularly releases [Travel Advisories and Alerts](#) intended to help you in your trip planning. Conditions can change rapidly in a country at any given time, so we encourage to use this information as a first step in planning any trip abroad. You can even see the world at a glance on our color-coded map!



Traveling to India with an eVisa

The benefits of traveling to India with an eVisa as opposed to the more traditional visa foil in one's passport are numerous. To begin with, citizens of eligible countries can apply from anywhere and are not forced to travel to or ship documents to the nearest Indian Embassy or Consulate. Most importantly, it is possible to receive a visa within a matter of days as opposed to weeks for a physical visa.

Of course, there are certain eligibility requirements to apply. More information about eligibility and instructions on how to apply can be found on the official [website](#).

A word of caution, a Google search of Indian eVisas turns up several sites which are not the official Government of India eVisa site. Some of these unofficial sites charge significantly more money than the actual eVisa fee. It is not necessary to use the services of a third party to complete your application.

Unfortunately, there have been several incidences recently where U.S. citizens

applied for an Indian eVisa, successfully flew to India, and were denied entry. In each of these cases, the individuals truly believed they had been granted an eVisa only to learn upon their arrival that their application was never finalized for lack of payment or incomplete information. They even had system generated emails confirming the receipt of their application, but in the end they were denied entry into India and forced to return to the United States.

If you have friends or family visiting from outside India and traveling with an eVisa, you may wish to share this information with them to ensure their easy entry through Immigration.

If a friend or family member applies for an Indian eVisa, encourage them to print off and carry the Electronic Travel Authorization form in their hand luggage. They should be prepared to provide it to the Immigration Officer at the port of entry. Possession of this document with their biographic details, photo, and scannable 3D and barcodes is the only way to guarantee an eVisa has been successfully granted.

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
Once you have successfully submitted and paid for your eVisa, you can check the status of your application by clicking the button at the bottom of the main web page:


2. e-Business Visa 3. e-Conference Visa


5. e-Medical Attendant Visa


6. e-Emergency X-Misc Visa

- Bureau of Immigration, Govt Of India
- Incredible India, Govt Of India





Verify Payment/
Pay e-Visa Fee


Print e-Visa Application


Check your Visa Status


Reupload Data

Internet Explorer (Windows) version 9.0 and above. The applicant must also have Adobe Acrobat Reader version 7.0 or higher. The website is compatible with Android and IOS devices.



Finally, click on the “print status” button to view and print your Electronic Travel Authorization form.

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The United States – India Educational foundation (USIEF) promotes mutual understanding between the nationals of India and the U.S. through the educational exchange of outstanding scholars, professionals, and students. Since its inception, USIEF has awarded approximately 20,000 Fulbright, Fulbright-Nehru, and other prestigious grants and scholarships in almost every academic discipline.

Tapping the talent of Fulbright students and scholars, USIEF holds dozens of academic or professional workshops each year. In addition to fellowship support, USIEF services include advising Indian citizens on higher education opportunities in the U.S. USIEF also consults with Indian and U.S. universities interested in developing linkages and exchanges.

USIEF's professional educational advising centers are located at New Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, and Mumbai. Please visit their [website](#) for more information.