

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.



Welcome Consul General Jennifer Larson!

Ms. Larson arrived in India on September 12th, 2022. Before taking over the reigns as the sixth Consul General in Hyderabad, she was Director and acting Deputy Secretary of State of the Office of India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and Maldives Affairs. She also served four years as the Deputy Principal Officer in Mumbai, India. Prior to completing a year-long course at the National Defense University in June 2016, she was Spokesperson at the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs. Ms. Larson served as the Principal Officer in Benghazi, Libya, and then Acting Deputy Chief of Mission in Tripoli. She has also served in Pakistan, France, Sudan, Jerusalem, and Lebanon.



Before joining the Foreign Service, Ms. Larson worked for NPR's San Francisco affiliate as a talk show producer. She completed her undergraduate and graduate work at the University of California, Berkeley in Comparative Literature (Arabic, Spanish and French) and Middle East Studies.

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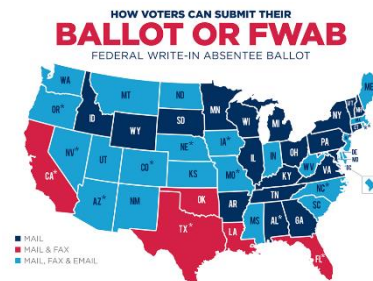
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It's time to Vote!



Don't forget, midterm elections are on Tuesday, November 8, 2022. Vote, sign, and send in your absentee ballot as soon as possible!

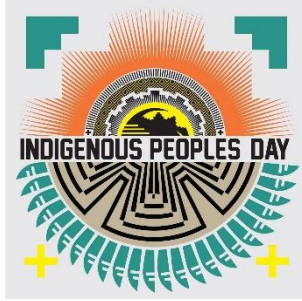
Did you know you have options for sending in your ballot? Please refer to this [website](#) to find out what your state allows. If your state requires mailed-in ballots, you can either use our drop box located at the U.S. Consulate's main gate or mail your ballot in a sealed envelope to:

U.S. Consulate General
U.S. Citizen Services Unit
Paigah Palace, 1-8-323 Chiran Fort Lane,
Begumpet
Secunderabad, Telangana, India 500003

If you have not yet received an absentee ballot from your state, you can submit a Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot. Please visit the website above to print off your ballot.

To ensure your ballot is delivered on time, **the submission deadline to the Consulate is October 21st.**

Columbus Day, Indigenous People's Day...Which is it??



Columbus Day is a U.S. holiday that commemorates the landing of Christopher Columbus in the Americas in 1492. Christopher Columbus was an Italian-born explorer who set sail in August 1492, bound for Asia with backing from the Spanish monarchs King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella aboard the ships the Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria.

Columbus intended to chart a western sea route to China, India, and the fabled gold and spice islands of Asia. Instead, on October 12, 1492, he landed in the Bahamas, becoming the first European to explore the Americas since the Vikings established colonies in Greenland and Newfoundland during the 10th century.

Later that October, Columbus sighted Cuba and believed it was mainland China; in December the expedition found Hispaniola, which he thought might be Japan. There, he established Spain's first colony in the Americas with 39 of his men. In March 1493, Columbus returned to Spain in triumph, bearing gold, spices, and "Indian" captives. The explorer crossed the Atlantic several more times before his death in 1506.

The first Columbus Day celebration took place in 1792, when New York's Columbian Order held an event to commemorate the historic landing's 300th anniversary. Taking pride in Columbus' birthplace and faith, Italian and Catholic communities in various parts of the country began organizing annual religious ceremonies and parades in his honor. It did not become a federal holiday celebrated on the second Monday in October until 1937.

Controversy over Columbus Day dates back to the 19th century, when anti-immigrant groups in the United States rejected the holiday because of its association with Catholicism.

In recent decades, Native Americans and other groups have protested the celebration of an event that resulted in the colonization of the Americas, the beginnings of the transatlantic slave trade, and the deaths of millions from murder and diseases such as smallpox and influenza.

As of 2022, the Indigenous People's Day is observed or honored by states including Alaska, Minnesota, Vermont, Iowa, North Carolina, California, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, New Mexico, Wisconsin, Virginia, Oregon, Texas, as well as South Dakota, which celebrates Native Americans' Day, Hawaii, which celebrates Discoverers' Day, and Alabama, which celebrates American Indian Heritage Day.



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 have an OCI card which is still valid, but just received my new U.S. passport. Do I need to update my information with the FRRO Office?

A1: It depends. A U.S. citizen residing in India who is between the ages of 20 and 50 maintains their legal status by having a valid foreign passport and a current OCI card or visa. If your passport expires or is lost/stolen and you replace it with a new one, you must provide the new information to the Foreigner Regional Registration Office (FRRO) to have your OCI card reissued. You can submit your updated information using the online system available on their [website](#).

Q2: I have an emergency trip scheduled for next week and just realized my passport will expire while I am gone. If I get a temporary passport, are there any restrictions on its use?

A2: Returning to the United States with a valid Emergency Photo Digitized Passport (EPDP) is always possible. Since a temporary passport is printed at either a Consulate or Embassy, it is lacking some of the security features commonly found on full-validity passports. As a result, some countries have policies which disallow travelers to enter through immigration with an EPDP. They do however typically allow passengers to transit without issue. For this reason, we encourage you to contact the Embassy or Consulate for the country in which you plan to travel to ensure they will accept your EPDP.

Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Apostilles but were Afraid to Ask

What is an Apostille?

Apostilles authenticate the seals and signatures of officials on public documents such as birth certificates, court orders, or any other document issued by a federal agency or certified by a U.S. or foreign consul. An apostille certifies the document(s), so the document can be recognized in foreign countries that are members of the [1961 Hague Convention](#) Treaty.



The U.S. Department of State will only issue an apostille for a document to use in countries that **are** members of the 1961 Hague Convention.

How is an Apostille different from an Authentication Certificate?

Authentication certificates are issued by the U.S. Department of State for the same purpose as Apostilles but only for use in countries that are not members to the 1961 Hague Convention Treaty.

What if the document I need the apostille on was issued by a state rather than the federal government?

State-issued documents for use in countries that **are** members of 1961 Hague Convention must

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Consulate Exchange Rate

Please note that on October 4th, 2022, the Consulate's official rate of exchange rose to ₹84/\$1.



The U.S. Consulate in Hyderabad regularly monitors the U.S. Dollar to Indian Rupee exchange rate and future adjustments may be necessary. Please check our website before paying for services in Rupees to ensure you have the correct amount.

Checklist for Moving Abroad with Children



Document Checklist for U.S. Citizen Children:

- ☐ U.S. Passport
- ☐ Foreign Passport (if applicable)
- ☐ Authenticated U.S. birth certificate or original Consular Report of Birth Abroad
- ☐ Authenticated official school records and transcripts
- ☐ Vaccination Records
- ☐ Medical Records
- ☐ Social Security Card
- ☐ Authenticated original custody agreement, (if applicable)
- ☐ Flight ticket or travel evidence

Document Checklist for Parents of U.S. Citizen Children:

- ☐ Foreign Passport
- ☐ Authenticated official school records and transcripts
- ☐ Proof of previous employments and any proof of qualifications
- ☐ Social Security Card
- ☐ Authenticated marriage certificate (If the marriage was in the United States and has not been registered with the foreign consulate)
- ☐ Medical Records
- ☐ Financial Records
- ☐ All Previous Tax Returns and W2s

Useful Websites

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>



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



Upcoming Holidays

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

- 10 October: Columbus/ Indigenous Peoples' Day (US)
- 25 October: Diwali (India)
- 11 November: Veterans' Day (US)
- 24 November: Thanksgiving (US)
- 26 December: Christmas (India and US)



As 2022 draws to a close, we at the Consulate would like to thank you for your patience as we return to pre-COVID levels of service and to wish you and your family a happy and healthy 2023!

Apostilles – Cont.

be authenticated by the [competent authority](#) of the state in which the document was executed.

A state-issued document with an apostille **does not** require additional certification by the U.S. Department of State or legalization by a U.S. embassy or consulate overseas to be recognized in a participating country. The U.S. Department of State **will not** issue an apostille for state-issued documents.

How does one go about getting a federal document apostilled or a state/county document authenticated?

Before submitting a document for apostille/authentication:

Notarize each document in front of a notary public:

- For notaries public commissioned through **the county**: Documents must first be certified by the clerk of court in the county where the notary is commissioned, and then certified by the secretary of state in the state where the document was notarized.
- For notaries public commissioned through **the state**: Documents must *only* be certified by the secretary of state in the state where the document was notarized.

Be sure to Follow this order for notarizing and certifying your document:

- Your document is issued to you
- Get your document notarized
- If it applies, get your document certified by the clerk of court
- Get your document certified by the secretary of state. **Note:** If a document requires certification from both the clerk of court and secretary of state, the dates must show that the clerk of court certification was done before the secretary of state certification

Please note:

- 1) If you do not have the correct notarization(s) before you submit your documents, we will not be able to process your request.

- 2) All seals and signatures must be originals
- 3) All documents in a foreign language must be translated into English by a certified translator and notarized as a true translation.
- 4) We cannot accept copies unless they are “true certified copies” from a notary public. Please note that birth certificates, marriage certificates, death certificates, divorce decrees, court documents, and federally issued documents cannot be certified by a notary public as “true copies.” These documents must be certified by the secretary of state.

Once you have completed the notaries, complete form [DS-4194](#) “Request for Authentication Services” and submit your documents with the required \$20 fee per document and a self-addressed postage paid envelope to the following address:

U.S. Department of State
Office of Authentications
CA/PPT/S/TO/AUT
44132 Mercure Cir.
PO Box 1206
Sterling, VA 20166-1206

It takes about 10-11 weeks to process a request from the date the forms are received, so plan early.

To inquire about the status of a pending request, please call the Office of Authentication at (202) 485-8000. When calling, you must indicate if a request Form DS-4194 was submitted and provide:

- Full name and/or name of company
- Name of Courier company used to submit documentation and tracking number if applicable
- Type of document(s)
- Country of use
- Number of document(s)
- Complete return address
- Type of mail service used to return the document(s)
- Type of payment submitted