

AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES U.S. EMBASSY NEW DELHI NEWSLETTER

Summer, 2018

American Citizen Services (ACS)

Shantipath
Chanakyapuri
New Delhi 110 021
Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Tel: 2419-8000
Emergencies after hours and on
weekends: 2419-8000
Fax: 2419-8407
Email: acsnd@state.gov

The American Citizens Services Unit at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi is open for routine consular services from **9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Monday through Friday** excluding holidays and consular admin days. Make your appointment online on [here](#). To visit the American Citizen Services Unit, please come to Gate 6 of the Embassy (generally known as the “Visa Gate”) located on Andre Malraux Marg between Nyaya Marg and Shantipath in the Chanakyapuri neighborhood of New Delhi. Appointments are required for regular passport services, registration of birth abroad, notarial service. For general inquiries, please call or email us. For emergency services related to death, arrest, victim of crime or destitution during work hours, please call us directly for an appointment. Emergencies after hours and on weekends call: 2419-8000

Travel Smart. Travel Safe.



Stay Connected. Register with STEP

STEP is a free service of the Department of State. The benefits of STEP enrollment include:

- Registration with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate;
- Access to foreign country safety and security information to help you make informed travel plans;
- Receive notifications in the event of an emergency, such as natural disaster, civil unrest, or security incident; and
- Help family & friends contact you during an emergency.

[Enroll in the U.S. Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#)

Leaving India?

If you are departing from India after a long stay, please be sure to update your registration on [the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) with your departure and onward traveling when you leave.



Improved Consular Safety and Security Messaging

The U.S. Department of State has made it easier for U.S. citizens abroad to get clear, timely, and reliable safety and security information about every country in the world and access it at home or on the go via our mobile-friendly Smart Traveler app.

Upcoming U.S. Embassy Holidays

May 28	Memorial Day
July 4 (U.S.)	Independence Day
August 15 (India)	Independence Day
August 22	Id-ul-Zuha (Bakrid)
September 3	Labor Day (U.S.)
October 2	Mahatma Gandhi's Birth- day
October 8	Columbus Day
October 19	Dussehra
November 7	Diwali
November 12	Veterans Day
November 22	Thanksgiving Day
November 23	Guru Nanak's Birth- day
December 25	Christmas Day

Before You Travel

You can now access all of our safety and security information on our country specific pages. Before you travel, check the Travel Advisory and Alerts for your destination(s) at travel.state.gov/destination. Be sure to read country-specific details that could affect your travel, such as entry/exit requirements, local laws and customs, health conditions, transportation, and other relevant topics.

Travel Advisories

Travel Advisories have been issued for each country of the world. Travel Advisories follow a consistent format and use plain language to help U.S. citizens find and use important security information. Travel Advisories apply up to four standard levels of advice, give a description of the risks, and provide clear actions U.S. citizens should take to help ensure their safety.

To see a complete list of Travel Advisories for every country in the world, see travel.state.gov/traveladvisories.

Alerts

U.S. embassies and consulates abroad issue Alerts to inform U.S. citizens of specific safety and security concerns in a particular country, such as demonstrations, crime trends, and weather events. A standard, easy-to-read format makes them easy to access, understand, and take action. You may view the latest and archived alerts and messages issued by the Embassy for the year of 2018 [here](#).



Passport check! Is it time to re- new?

Summer is a busy travel season and it's never too early to pull out your passport and check its expiration date. Remember, as a general rule, passports should be valid for at least six months when traveling internationally.

Many countries will refuse entry unless a traveler's passport is set to expire at least six months after the final date of travel. Some countries also require a specific number of empty visa pages or may refuse to accept a traveler's passport. Take a few minutes, collect your passport, and look at those expirations dates and visa pages! Country specific entry/exit guidelines are available on travel.state.gov/destination.

If you do find that you are in need of passport renewal, follow these [easy steps](#) to apply either in person or by mail and you will be ready to travel in no time.

The American Citizen Services (ACS) unit offers passport services Monday to Friday mornings. You can schedule an appointment through the [ACS Appointment System](#).



U.S. passport card

The U.S. passport card is the same size as a driver's license and only costs \$30 for adult who have already had a passport. A U.S. passport BOOK is always required for international air travel – passport cards are not valid for international air travel. The passport card can only be used to re-enter the United States at land border-crossings and sea ports-of-entry from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda. The card provides a less expensive, smaller, and convenient alternative to the passport book. The card is REAL ID compliant.

Important Notice: US Passport Execution Fee Increase

Effective April 2, 2018, the passport execution fee increased from **\$25 to \$35** for U.S. passport applicants **using Form DS-11**, including first-time applicants over age 16, children under age 16, and applicants who reapply after reporting their previous passport lost or stolen. Accordingly, the total passport fee for such applicants will **increase by \$10**. For more details, please visit the Embassy [website](#) or travel.state.gov.



Other Travel Tips

Obey Local Laws

An arrest or accident during your time abroad can result in a difficult legal situation. Your U.S. citizenship does not make you exempt from full prosecution under another country's criminal justice system. Many countries impose harsh penalties for violations that would be considered minor in the United States. If you find yourself in a legal jam, contact the closest U.S. consulate, or the U.S. embassy for assistance. Keep in mind, U.S. consular employees cannot arrange for local officials to release a detained U.S. citizen.

Health

Travel.State.Gov and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) offer information about your health while traveling. The CDC has a [travelers' health](#) webpage that provides vaccines, medicine, and travel advice. You can also download their apps [TravWell](#) and [Can I Eat This?](#) to your phone. Interested in learning about travel insurance or what to do in case you experience an emergency or illness? Travel.state.gov provides information on [insurance providers for overseas coverage](#) and [your health abroad](#) to better assist with pre-travel preparation. Travel websites also recommend carrying copies of travel insurance and passports on your person or in a money belt so they can be found easily by medics or emergency personnel.

Be Prepared

Make sure your credit cards and telephone work at your final destination. Inform your card carrier of your upcoming trip and inquire about international fees. It might be also useful to download apps, like Google Maps, Google Translate, or iTranslate, which will help you get around on your trip. Make copies of your passport and other identification in case they are lost or stolen. Don't forget to check travel.state.gov for important travel information before you go on your trip. They offer a [traveler's checklist](#) and [country specific information](#) to assist with travel planning.

Maintain Your Indian Visa Status

The Embassy encourages U.S. citizens to remain in compliance with Indian immigration law at all times; your visa status should correspond to your actual purpose of stay. Basic information about Indian visa requirements is available from the Indian page on travel.state.gov. Remember this information is subject to change. Inquiries should be directed to Indian Immigration officials, the Foreigner's Regional Registration Office (FRRO). At present, there are 13 FRROs in major cities (i.e., Delhi, Mumbai Kolkata, Chennai, Amritsar, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Calicut, Cochin, Goa, Trivandrum, Lucknow and Ahmedabad). Please find the contact details of FRRO at <https://boi.gov.in/content/frro-contact-list> if you are not residing in these major cities you may wish to contact the Foreigners Registration Officer (FRO) or the District Superintendent of Police (SP) of your residing area. Remember, you need to submit online application to FRRO/FRO for any visa issue which can be accessed at <https://boi.gov.in/content/online-registration>.



U.S. Visa Inquiries

The American Citizen Services unit is unable to assist with information regarding visas to the United States. For visa information, please visit the visa page or send an inquiry to support-india@ustraveldocs.com. Please visit <http://www.ustraveldocs.com/in> for questions about visa appointments and application process.



Primary Elections Are in Full Swing. Remember, your vote counts! Be absent but accounted for!

Register and request your absentee ballots for all 2018 elections now at FVAP.gov.

This year the entire House of Representatives and a third of the U.S. Senate are up for election. Don't miss your opportunity to vote in your state's primary election, as it will determine who is on the November 2018 general election ballot. To register and request your absentee ballot, visit FVAP.gov to complete a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA).

The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) recommends that all U.S. citizens overseas send in a FPCA every January to ensure receipt of absentee ballots for all 2018 federal elections. Now is the time to update your mailing address and absentee ballot request information to reflect any changes since the 2016 general election.

To register and request your ballots, complete a FPCA using the online assistant (fvap.gov/military-voter/registration-ballots).

You may also use the fillable PDF (fvap.gov/uploads/FVAP/Forms/fpca.pdf) or pick up a hardcopy version from a Voting Assistance Officer at the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate's American Citizen Services Office.

Not voting in the states listed above? Find your state's primary election dates at FVAP.gov. To find your state's election website for specific information on candidates, elections, contact information, and links to your local election offices, visit FVAP's contact page (fvap.gov/info/contact).

Americans can vote. Wherever they are.

Did you know active duty military members, their spouses and overseas citizens can exercise their right to vote from anywhere in the world?

The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) works to ensure that Americans living away from their voting residence can cast an absentee ballot in federal elections.

HERE'S HOW:

GO TO FVAP.GOV AND SELECT THE STATE OF VOTING RESIDENCE TO REGISTER AND REQUEST A BALLOT OR TALK TO SOMEONE AT FVAP

→ vote@fvap.gov ← 1-800-438-VOTE ←

FILL OUT AND SEND IN THE *FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION (FPCA)*
It is both a voter registration form and absentee ballot request form.

HOW? Use FVAP's online assistant or fill out the FPCA by hand and then mail to the election office. Some States allow email, too. State-specific requirements and contact info are at FVAP.gov.

WHEN? Send the FPCA by **August 1, 2016** (or later depending on the State). Find the specific deadline at FVAP.gov.

56 x 11.00 in



FILL OUT THE ABSENTEE BALLOT WHEN IT ARRIVES

WHEN WILL THAT BE?
For the General Election, the ballot should arrive by early October.

ANYTHING ELSE?
Some States require a signed affidavit or envelope.



WHAT IF THE BALLOT DOESN'T ARRIVE BY THE DEADLINE?
Fill out the *Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)* at FVAP.gov and send it



MAKE SURE THE BALLOT WAS RECEIVED
HOW? Select the State at FVAP.gov to check its status



The following states have elections in the next 90 days:

June:

June 5: Alabama, California, Iowa, Mississippi, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, South Dakota;

June 12: Maine, Nevada, North Dakota, South Carolina, Virginia;

June 19: Arkansas, District of Columbia;

June 26: Colorado, Maryland, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Utah;

June 30: Texas 27th Congressional District Special Election.

July:

July 17: Alabama;

July 24: Georgia.

August:

August 2: Tennessee;

August 4: Virgin Islands;

August 7: Ohio 12th Congressional District Special General;

August 7: Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Washington;

August 11: Hawaii;

August 14: Connecticut, Minnesota, Vermont, Wisconsin;

August 21: Alaska, Wyoming;



Social Security Administration

Services Overseas

The Social Security Administration (SSA) has consolidated its overseas operations into several regional offices that provide a full range of SSA services for U.S. citizens residing outside of the United States. If you reside in India, your designated SSA Federal Benefits Unit is located at U.S. Embassy Manila. Please send all inquiries regarding SSA provided benefits and services, including social security number and card applications, to fbu.Manila@ssa.gov. You may also contact the Manila Federal Benefits Unit via their website, here.

U.S. citizens **over the age of 12** applying for the first time for a social security number should approach the American Citizen Services in New Delhi. You may come to the American Citizen Services Unit at the Embassy upon [making an appointment](#) for notarial and other services.

For SSN application other than the situation above and for all replacement cards, applicants must get a written request from FBU Manila before submitting their documents at the American Citizen Services Unit (ACS) in New Delhi. Any U.S. citizen who needs consultative exams or medical appointments for disability benefits, or is applying for a representative payee, authentication/ certification of social security number-related documents must present a written request from FBU to ACS.

If you are already receiving SSA benefits payments, there will be no change in the method of distribution of those payments.

For additional information on the SSA's services abroad, please [Service Around the World](#) on [SSA.gov](#).

U.S. Embassy /Consulate offer **no fee notarized copies** for social security related applications. [Schedule a notarial appointment](#) via our ACS Appointment System for this service.



Take Cover! Dengue Season Is Just Around the Corner!

Dengue season is approaching! It's time to be reminded about dengue and how to avoid infection.

Dengue (pronounced DEN-gay) is a viral infection transmitted by bite of *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes identified by the black and white stripes on their body and legs. These mosquitoes bite during the day, especially around dawn and dusk. In New Delhi, the greatest risk for dengue follows the monsoons,

September through November.

Symptoms: High grade fever, severe headache, pain behind the eyes, muscle and joint pain, nausea and vomiting.

Treatment: Only the symptoms of dengue can be treated. Rest, stay hydrated, and take acetaminophen (Tylenol© or Panadol©) to reduce fever and discomfort.

- Avoid aspirin or ibuprofen products (Motrin©, Advil©), which may increase the risk of bleeding and worsen the course of the disease.
- Blood work is often required to monitor platelet levels.

Oral rehydration solution (ORS), Gatorade, water, and clear fruit juices are recommended.

Prevention: There is no vaccine to prevent dengue fever, so the best defense is to avoid mosquito bites! Remove ponded or stagnant water around your home to prevent mosquito breeding. Take the following measures to be more fully protected:

- Apply mosquito repellent before leaving home. The most effective repellent is DEET, an ingredient found in most insect repellents.

- Install plug-ins or coils in the home.
- Wear long sleeves and pants as often as possible, especially during outdoor activities and activities around dawn or dusk.
- Use mosquito netting in the home as required.



Community Corner

If you know or would like to create a community WhatsApp group or Facebook group which helps to bring the ALN community together in your area, we will be happy to help spread the words here. We will also select interesting news and helpful tips submitted by our ALN community members to be added in this section in the future issues. Please note that this section is not for advertising business or personal interest. We look forward to your contribution and suggestion to enrich our quarterly newsletters.



ACS Open House Every Thursday

On every Thursday between 3:00p.m. and 3:30p.m., drop by to chat with us to discuss life, work, and travel in India, as well as address voting, passport, and any other consular issues. Please make sure to bring your U.S. passport for entry.

Stay Connected with U.S. Embassy New Delhi

Website: <https://in.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/India.usembassy>

Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Please drop us a line at acsnd@state.gov .