

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.



Update on Services at the Consulate

While the Consulate in Hyderabad remains open to most American Citizen Service operations, appointments may be cancelled as local conditions require. If your appointment is cancelled, you will be notified directly by email. Applicants not notified of an appointment cancellation should plan to attend their interview appointment on the scheduled date and time.

Due to limited appointment availability, we are currently unable to reschedule any cancelled appointments. We are also unable to speculate on or respond to inquiries regarding potential future cancellations or appointment availability. We appreciate your patience and understanding during this particularly difficult time.

Minors and those completing the DS-11 form for their first adult passport can schedule an appointment [online](#). Adult U.S. citizens using the form DS-82 to renew a previous passport can courier the application to the Consulate or use the drop box to leave your completed application in a sealed envelope at the main gate of the Consulate.

Limited Consular Report of Birth Abroad, Notary, and other service appointments are available. Go to [U.S. Citizen Services | U.S. Embassy & Consulates in India](#) for more information.

U.S. citizens with emergencies should call [040-4033-8300](tel:040-4033-8300) ([011-91-40-4033-8300](tel:011-91-40-4033-8300) from the United States). After normal business hours (08:30 – 17:00 Monday through Friday), you will be directed to an Officer on Duty.

Increase in FedEx Delivery Charge

PLEASE NOTE: As of April 16, 2021 Federal Express (FedEx) increased the cost to deliver passports or other citizenship documents within India from 450 to 500 INR (inclusive of DFS and 18% GST).

If you are renewing your passport at the Consulate, the courier fee can be paid at the time of your appointment to the FedEx representative by cash, credit card, or demand draft payable to: "FedEx Express TSCS (India) Pvt. Ltd."

If you are renewing your passport by mail, you must include a demand draft with your application.

In This Issue

Ask the Consul **P.2**

COVID Testing and Travel to US **P.3**

Traveling to the U.S. with an Expired Passport **P.4**

Global Entry **P.5**

Expired Green Card **P.6**

New Chargé d’Affaires at U.S. Embassy in New Delhi

Ambassador Atul Keshap, a career member of the Department of State’s Senior Foreign Service, recently arrived in New Delhi to serve as Chargé d’Affaires, ad interim.

A Chargé d’Affaires is a diplomat who serves as an embassy’s chief of mission in the absence of the ambassador.

Ambassador Keshap will bring a wealth of experience to the role, having served previously at U.S. Embassy New Delhi and as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia. He most recently served as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs and as the U.S. Ambassador to Sri Lanka and Maldives.

Ambassador Keshap’s appointment will reinforce the close U.S. partnership with the Government and people of India, demonstrated by our collaboration to overcome global challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic.



Holiday Trivia:

Juneteenth is the oldest celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. President Joe Biden recently signed a bill passed by both the House and Senate into law making Juneteenth our first new Federal Holiday in nearly 40 years.

From its Galveston, Texas origins in 1865, the observance of June 19th as the African American Emancipation Day has spread across the United States and beyond.

Excerpt from President Biden’s Proclamation:

“On June 19, 1865 — nearly nine decades after our Nation’s founding, and more than 2 years after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation — enslaved Americans in Galveston, Texas, finally received word that they were free from bondage. As those who were formerly enslaved were recognized for the first time as citizens, Black Americans came to commemorate Juneteenth with celebrations across the country, building new lives and a new tradition that we honor today. In its celebration of freedom, Juneteenth is a day that should be recognized by all Americans. And that is why I am proud to have consecrated Juneteenth as our newest national holiday

Juneteenth is a day of profound weight and power.

A day in which we remember the moral stain and terrible toll of slavery on our country -- what I’ve long called America’s original sin. A long legacy of systemic racism, inequality, and inhumanity.

But it is a day that also reminds us of our incredible capacity to heal, hope, and emerge from our darkest moments with purpose and resolve.”



Ask the Consul

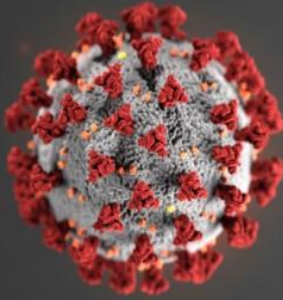
In each newsletter, we will attempt to answer a question commonly asked by citizens living in our district. If you have one you would like to submit, please send it to HydACS@state.gov with the subject line “ask the consul.”

Q1: I want to apply to renew my passport, but either do not have or can’t remember my Social Security Number (SSN). Do I have to include it on my application, and if so, what can I do?

A1: You are legally required to provide your SSN as part of your application for a new or replacement passport. Unfortunately, consular staff are not authorized to access your number and provide it for you. While you do have several options to find out your SSN, none are particularly quick or easy:

1. If you have never been issued an SSN, Consular staff can assist you in completing an affidavit which will be included with your passport application.
2. If you have been issued an SSN and your passport has not yet expired, immediately send an email to FBU.Manila@ssa.gov requesting instruction on how to obtain a replacement card.
3. If you have been issued an SSN, your passport has not yet expired and you plan on returning to the United States, you can go to any Social Security office to request a replacement card.

- Continued on page 4 -



Remember: COVID-19 Testing Required to Enter U.S.

Effective January 26, the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) requires all air passengers two years of age and over entering the United States (including U.S. citizens and Legal Permanent Residents) to present a negative COVID-19 test, taken within three (3) calendar days of departure, or proof of recovery from the virus within the last 90 days. Airlines must confirm the negative test result or proof of recent recovery for all passengers prior to boarding. Airlines must deny boarding of passengers who do not provide documentation of a negative test or recovery.

See the [CDC Proof of Negative Test Result page](#) to view the order, complete the attestation, and to see FAQ's

Humanitarian exemptions to this order will be granted on an extremely limited basis and will only be considered when the country of departure lacks adequate SARS-CoV-2 testing capacity and cannot meet the requirements to provide a negative viral COVID-19 test within three (3) calendar days of departure. **There are no waivers available through this process for individuals who test positive for COVID-19.**

Individuals - or air carriers seeking to allow boarding by

potentially qualifying individuals - who believe they meet the criteria for a waiver should contact the embassy or consulate serving the location from which they plan to depart. The embassy or consulate will then submit the request to the CDC for consideration.

To be eligible for consideration for a humanitarian exemption to this order, an individual's situation must meet both of the below criteria:

- Emergency travel is required to preserve health and safety (e.g. medical evacuations).
- Predeparture testing cannot be accessed or completed before travel.

Travel Warnings

Stay in the Know!

Did you know the State Department publishes worldwide or regional public announcements or country specific travel warnings? Check out this short [video](#) or visit the [website](#) for more information.



Travel Tips

Make a copy of all your travel documents in case of an emergency and leave them with a trusted friend or relative.

It's also a good idea to take a photo of the data page of your passport with your mobile phone. This way, you will always have a copy available when traveling.

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>



Upcoming Holidays/Events

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

- July 21: Id ul Zuha-Bakrid (Indian)
- August 16: Independence Day (Indian)
- September 6: Labor Day (U.S.)



Did You Know...

The United States-India Educational Foundation 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 nearly 20,000 Fulbright, Fulbright-Nehru, and other prestigious grants and scholarships in almost every academic discipline.

For more information, visit their [website](#).

Returning to the U.S. on an Expired Passport



U.S. citizens may now directly return to the United States with certain expired U.S. passports.

If you are overseas and your passport expired on or after January 1, 2020, you may be able to use your expired passport to return directly to the United States until December 31, 2021.

You **qualify** for this exception if **all the following** are true:

- You are a U.S. citizen.
- You are currently abroad seeking direct return to the United States.
- You are flying directly to the United States, a United States territory, or have only short-term transit (“connecting flights”) through a foreign country on your direct return to the United States or to a United States Territory.
- Your expired passport was originally valid for 10 years. Or, if you were 15 years of age or younger when the passport was issued, your expired passport was valid for 5 years.
- Your expired passport is undamaged.
- Your expired passport is unaltered.
- Your expired passport is in your possession.

- Continued page 5 -

Ask the Consul Cont.

4. If your passport has already expired and you are planning to or can return to the U.S., consular staff can issue you a temporary passport which will allow you to return to the U.S. to get a replacement SSN card from a domestic Social Security Administration office.
5. If none of these scenarios apply to you, please write us directly at HydACS@state.gov.

Q2: Will the Consulate provide COVID vaccination to private U.S. Citizens?

A2: We are unable to provide healthcare services, including the distribution of vaccines, to private U.S. citizens residing/visiting India. Please follow host country developments and guidelines for COVID-19 vaccination. Government of India announcements regarding vaccination are available at <https://www.mygov.in/covid-19/>

If you are interested in obtaining the vaccine, contact your local healthcare provider or consult the [list of known healthcare providers](#) on our website for more information.

Returning to the U.S. on an Expired Passport Cont.



You **do not qualify** for this exception if:

- You wish to depart **from** the United States to an international destination.
- You are currently abroad seeking to travel to a foreign country for any length of stay longer than an airport connection en route to the United States or to a United States territory.
- Your expired passport was limited in validity.
- Your expired passport is a special issuance passport (such as a diplomatic, official, service, or no-fee regular passport).
- Your expired passport is damaged.
- Your expired passport is altered.
- Your expired passport is not in your possession.

Please be advised that currently, [routine passport processing in the United States](#) can take 10-12 weeks. If you need a passport in less than 10-12 weeks due to international travel plans, you can pay an additional \$60 fee to expedite your passport, which will shorten the processing time to 4-6 weeks.

If your U.S. passport expired on or before December 31, 2019, please see [our website](#) for information on how to renew your passport before traveling. Routine processing time in India is two weeks. U.S. citizen adults in India must renew their passports by mail. U.S. citizen adults applying for their first adult passport and all U.S. citizen minors must apply in-person and can do so at any of the five consular sections located throughout India.

Actions to Take:

The Ministries of External Affairs and Home Affairs have given permission for U.S. citizens who meet the above qualifications to depart India on an expired passport up to December 31, 2021 **with an approved exit visa**. Submit your application online by going to [the FRRO ePortal](#). When prompted, enter the passport information for your expired passport in the application form. Exit visa applications are generally approved within 48 hours.



WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

- ✓ **No processing lines**
- ✓ **No paperwork**
- ✓ **Access to expedited entry benefits in other countries**
- ✓ **Available at major U.S. airports**
- ✓ **Reduced wait time**

Global Entry is a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) program that allows expedited clearance for pre-approved, low-risk travelers upon arrival in the United States. Members enter the United States through automatic kiosks at [select airports](#).

At airports, program members proceed to Global Entry kiosks, present their machine-readable passport or U.S. permanent resident card, place their fingerprints on the scanner for fingerprint verification and complete a customs declaration. The kiosk issues the traveler a transaction receipt and directs the traveler to baggage claim and the exit.

Travelers must be pre-approved for the Global Entry program. All applicants undergo a rigorous background check and in-person interview before enrollment.

While Global Entry's goal is to speed travelers through the process, members may still be selected for further examination when entering the United States. Any violation of the program's terms and conditions will result in the appropriate enforcement action and termination of the traveler's membership privileges.

Conditionally approved [Global Entry](#) applicants will be able to complete in-person interviews at most Trusted Traveler Programs enrollment centers in the United States. These applicants must schedule enrollment center interviews in advance by logging into their account on the [Trusted Traveler Programs website](#). [Enrollment on Arrival](#) remains operational at participating airports.

For more information on how to enroll, please visit U.S. Customs and Border Protection's [website](#).

Upcoming Special Elections

Voting is one of our most fundamental rights as U.S. citizens. The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) works to ensure Service members, their eligible family members, and overseas citizens are aware of their right to vote and have the tools and resources to successfully do so - from anywhere in the world.

If your official residence in the U.S. is in Texas or Ohio, you have the opportunity to participate in special elections this summer

For more information determining your Voting Resident, registering to vote, and requesting absentee ballots, please visit the [FVAP website](#).

TEXAS CD 6
CD 6 SPECIAL ELECTION RUNOFF
JULY 27, 2021

RETURN YOUR BALLOT BY MAIL TO YOUR ELECTION OFFICE. FAX YOUR BALLOT ONLY IF LOCATED IN A HOSTILE FIRE ZONE.

FVAP.GOV/TEXAS

OHIO CD 15 CD 11
CD 11 & 15 SPECIAL PRIMARY
AUGUST 3, 2021

BALLOTS MUST BE RETURNED BY MAIL TO YOUR ELECTION OFFICE.

FVAP.GOV/OHIO

Has a Family Member's Green Card Expired?



A permanent resident (called lawful permanent resident, LPR, or “green card” holder) or a conditional resident (CR) who has remained outside the United States for longer than one year, or beyond the validity period of a Re-entry Permit (typically two years), will require a new immigrant visa to enter the United States and resume permanent residence.

A provision exists under U.S. visa law for the issuance of a returning resident special immigrant visa to an LPR who remained outside the United States due to circumstances beyond his/her control. If you or a family member have been unable to return to the United States due to the COVID pandemic, you may be eligible for this Returning Resident (SB-1) immigrant visa.

If you wish to apply for a Returning Resident (SB-1) immigrant visa, you should contact the nearest U.S. Consulate General Mumbai in advance of your intended travel (at least three months in advance) to permit sufficient time for visa processing. As part of the visa application process, an interview at the Consulate is required.

If your application for returning resident status is approved, this eliminates the requirement that an immigrant visa petition be filed on your behalf with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). You will need to be interviewed for both your application for returning resident status,

and usually later for the immigrant visa. An SB-1 applicant is required to establish eligibility for an immigrant visa and have a medical examination. Therefore, this involves paying both visa processing fees and medical fees.

When applying for a Returning Resident (SB-1) immigrant visa, you should submit the following forms and documents to the U.S. Embassy or Consulate where you will apply:

- A completed Application to Determine Returning Resident Status, Form [DS-117](#)
- Your Permanent Resident Card, Form I-551
- Your Re-entry Permit, if available

You must also submit supporting documents that show the following:

- Dates of travel outside of the United States (Examples: airline tickets, passport stamps, etc.)
- Proof of your ties to the United States and your intention to return (Examples: tax returns, and evidence of economic, family, and social ties to the United States)
- Proof that your protracted stay outside of the United States was for reasons beyond your control (Examples: medical incapacitation, employment with a U.S. company, etc.)

A consular officer will review your application and supporting documents to determine whether you meet the criteria for Returning Resident (SB-1) status. If you do, you must be eligible for the immigrant visa in all other respects in order to be issued a Returning Resident (SB-1) immigrant visa.

For more information about the process, please visit our [website](#).