



NEWSLETTER

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AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES United States Consulate General. Chennai, India

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Note that if you live in or near Chennai – or are traveling through Chennai - you can always drop off your voted ballot at the U.S. Consulate from 8:00am to 5:00pm.

You can also courier your ballot to the U.S. Consulate General using the address below. Please make sure to place the ballot in a separate postage-paid, sealed envelope if you choose this option.

Your Vote = Your Voice

HOW TO VOTE IN THE 2012 ELECTION

With less than 50 days to go before the 2012 Presidential Election, please review the information below which will explain how you can get your voted ballot to the U.S. in time for the election. We are offering services in Bangalore in October -- but you can always get your voted ballot to us by visiting the U.S. Consulate in Chennai or by sending us your ballot by courier. Please note that different states have different deadlines. Please see www.fvap.gov for state-specific information.

Information on Voted Ballot Drop-Off Services in Bangalore and Chennai

We will be in Bangalore for citizen services from October 10-12, 2012 and will accept your voted general election ballots in order to mail them back to the U.S. – please see more details below:

Have a voted general election ballot that you need to mail to the U.S.?

If you have a voted general election ballot and wish to mail it to the United States, U.S. Consulate personnel will be on hand in Bangalore to assist you. Between the dates of **October 10-12, 2012**, you may drop off your postage-paid, sealed envelope at the Foreign Commercial Service (FCS) office and we will mail it back home for you without the need to pay international postage.

Visit the FCS office on October 10 or 11 between the hours of 9:00am and 4:00pm or on October 12 between 9:00am and 12:00pm to drop off your voted material:

U.S. Commercial Service
S2, 2nd floor, Esteem
Red Cross Bhawan
26, Race course road
(Across the street from the Solitaire Hotel)
Bangalore 560001

Questions? If you have any questions about registering to vote, please contact Chennai's Voting Assistance Officer at [91] (44) 2857-4000 or at votechennai@state.gov.

Change in Courier Service

The courier company for delivery services of U.S. passports and CRBAs has changed from VFS to First Flight effective September 26, 2012. Demand drafts payable to VFS will no longer be accepted.

The cost for First Flight courier service is Rs. 300. If you wish to use courier service for delivery of your passport and/or CRBA, please complete the courier slip and bring to your appointment, as well as a demand draft made out to "First Flight Couriers LTD". The demand draft has to be payable at Chennai. Drafts can be drawn on any nationalized or foreign bank operating in India. Drafts of co-operative banks are not accepted at this time. If you do not want to use the courier service, you may provide a self-addressed envelope with postage and we can mail your passport and/or CRBA via registered post. You may also choose to pick it up in person at the consulate. Please visit passport / births abroad and citizenship services for detailed information.

Wardens Needed

We Need Your Help!

The warden program is a system for maintaining communications with the American community and disseminating information to it in times of increased threat or actual emergency. If you live in Chennai's consular district and want to help, please email us at chennaics@state.gov.

Questions about Indian Visas?

General information regarding Indian visa and immigration rules, including the addresses and telephone numbers for the FRRO offices, can be found at the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs website for its Bureau of Immigration at <http://www.immigrationindia.nic.in>.

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US Consulate, Chennai; 220 Anna Salai; Chennai 600 006; India | Tel: [91](44)2857-4000
<http://chennai.usconsulate.gov>

Disaster Preparedness

Even when you are in the safety of your home, natural disasters can strike. Earthquakes, hurricanes and tsunamis are only some of the natural disasters threatening the safety of Americans abroad. When natural disasters occur abroad, the Department of State and U.S. embassies and consulates in the affected country stand ready around the clock to track and assist affected American citizens. Visit the following websites to learn more about how to prepare for natural disasters:

- Are You Ready? Guide – <http://www.ready.gov/are-you-ready-guide>
- Disaster Assistance – <http://www.disasterassistance.gov/>
- CDC Emergency Preparedness – <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/index.asp>
- NASA Disaster Reference – <http://gcmd.nasa.gov/Resources/pointers/hazards.html>
- FEMA Disaster Preparedness – <http://www.fema.gov/plan/index.shtm>
- FEMA Disaster Information – <http://www.fema.gov/hazard/index.shtm>

Visit the following websites to stay informed and stay safe AFTER a disaster:

CDC Response, Cleanup & Safety –

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/workers.asp>

- ReliefWeb – <http://reliefweb.int/>
- International Association of Emergency Managers – <http://www.iaem.com/>
- UNHCR – <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/tehis/vtx/home>

Appointments and Services

Walk-ins for routine, non-emergency services will not be accepted. Please [click here](#) to make an appointment for passport, Consular Report of Birth Abroad, and document and notarial services. If you arrive at the consulate for a non-emergency service, you will be asked to return after securing an appointment. Thank you for your cooperation with this policy.

*<https://evisaforms.state.gov/acs/default.asp?postcode=MDR&appcode=1>

Emergency Services:

We can assist when a U.S. citizen in India is arrested, missing, is a victim of violent crime, becomes ill or dies, or when there is otherwise a need for immediate help.

- 24-hour duty officer for emergencies involving American citizens: call **(+91-44) 2857-4000**
- Updates about crisis situations
- Information on local resources
- Contacting family members in the United States

American Citizen Service Hours:

9:00am to 12:30pm (appointments), 9:00am-4:30pm (telephone hours); Monday through Friday, excluding holidays and the last Wednesday of each month.

Americans Traveling Abroad

U.S. citizens are urged to remain vigilant and avoid demonstrations or rallies throughout India as they have the potential to become violent. Find more specific information and precautions on traveling to and within India at the link below.

http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1139.html

Upcoming Holidays and Consulate Closures

- October 8, 2012
- October 23-24, 2012
- November 1, 2012
- November 12-13, 2012
- November 22, 2012
- December 25, 2012
- January 1, 2013

Births Abroad and U.S. Citizenship

A Consular Report of Birth Abroad is a certificate that states that a child is a U.S. citizen from birth. Many, but not all, children born abroad to a U.S. citizen parent are eligible to be documented as U.S. citizens through issuance of a Consular Report of Birth Abroad and U.S. passport. To learn more about transmitting citizenship, please visit http://www.travel.state.gov/law/citizenship/citizenship_5199.html.

Appointments are required to file a Consular Report of a Birth Abroad. Make an appointment online and print the appointment letter. Appointments are available for American citizens Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. We are closed on the last Wednesday of every month and on [American and Indian holidays](#).

Both parents and the child must appear at the Embassy in person on the date of the appointment with all of the required documents. A list of required documents and fees is found at

<http://chennai.usconsulate.gov/birthsabroadandcitizenship.html>.

National Work and Family Month

The National Work and Family Month is the month of October in the United States. This designation was first made by a resolution of the U.S. Senate in 2003 and has been reaffirmed by both houses of the United States Congress. In 2010, President Barack Obama issued a presidential statement on National Work and Family Month.

National Work and Family Month is designed to communicate and celebrate the progress towards creating healthier and more flexible work environments. The goal of the campaign is to remind employers about the business benefits of supporting work-life effectiveness programs.



NEWSLETTER YOUTH SECTION

AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES

United States Consulate General, Chennai, India

Halloween – October 31, 2012

Halloween is a yearly holiday observed around the world on October 31, the eve before the Western Christian feast of All Hallows. Typical festive Halloween activities include trick-or-treating (also known as "guising"), attending costume parties, carving jack-o'-lanterns, lighting bonfires, apple bobbing, visiting haunted attractions, playing pranks, telling scary stories, and watching horror films, as well as the religious observances of praying, fasting and attending vigils or church services.

Halloween Quiz

(answers below)

- What was the most popular Halloween candy in 2004?
 - candy corn
 - Snickers
 - M&Ms
- The first Jack-o-Lanterns were made out of what?
 - watermelons
 - pumpkins
 - turnips
- How many pounds of candy did the average American consume in 2002?
 - 6
 - 12
 - 24
- True or False: Orange and black are Halloween colors because orange is associated with the Fall harvest and black is associated with darkness and death.
- An old North American superstition states that if a cat of one of the following colors crosses your path, it is an omen of bad luck. Which color is it?
 - white
 - black
 - purple
- According to superstition, a person born on Halloween has what particular ability?
 - They can see and talk to spirits.
 - They can tell the future.
 - They will be unlucky.

Very Tricky Halloween Word Search



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a n c l c l m g y r p z m c h
x a c g n i n e t h g i r f u
i v d r a c u l a n b c s w l
i a y s s k e l e t o n e a b
o m r p c a l d r o n r i s m
w p a i c o b h t i e y m p z
i i c d w a a s r w s x m o o
t r s e m u t s o c s p u o m
c e e r n s f l k f h f m k b
h n b t o f f b c r e e p y i
a i e h s w s n i l b o g d e
z d g g c n x b r o o m o o n
t c a i l w o s t i r i p s a
p t m n i p u m p k i n z u i
b l a c k x o k a x m e m d p
  
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bat	ghosts	scary
black	goblins	skeleton
bones	halloween	spider
broom	haunted	spirits
caldron	monster	spooky
cat	moon	trick or treat
costumes	mummies	vampire
creepy	night	werewolf
dracula	owl	witch
frightening	pumpkin	zombie

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1-a; 2-c; 3-c; 4-True; 5-b; 6-a



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Thanksgiving – November 22, 2012

Thanksgiving Day is a holiday celebrated primarily in the United States and Canada. Thanksgiving is celebrated each year on the second Monday of October in Canada and on the fourth Thursday of November in the United States. Thanksgiving is a holiday that is all about counting our blessings and sharing a meal with family and friends. This holiday is a time when we can reflect on the important things in life - spending time with loved ones and thinking about all we have to be grateful for. We embrace new and old traditions and celebrate our families and friends.

Thanksgiving Day

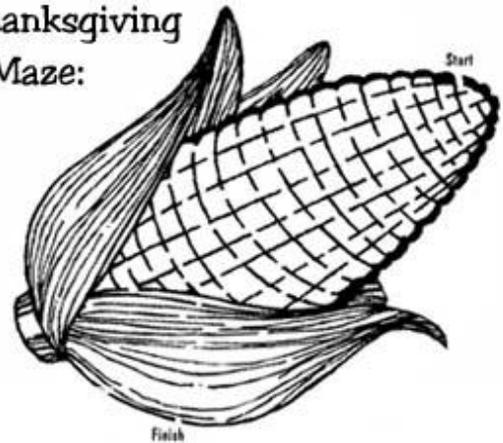
C	P	O	T	A	T	O	E	S	P	I	G
Y	E	K	R	U	T	Z	P	I	I	N	P
M	A	Y	F	L	O	W	E	R	L	D	R
S	T	U	F	F	I	N	G	M	G	I	B
H	T	U	O	M	Y	L	P	L	R	A	H
T	H	A	N	K	S	G	I	V	I	N	G
R	E	B	M	E	V	O	N	N	M	S	S
K	H	O	L	I	D	A	Y	B	S	S	M
R	T	S	E	V	R	A	H	P	I	I	A
N	O	I	T	A	R	B	E	L	E	C	Y
P	U	M	P	K	I	N	P	I	E	R	R
A	I	P	O	C	U	N	R	O	C	F	X

CELEBRATION
CORNUCOPIA
HARVEST
HOLIDAY

INDIANS
MAYFLOWER
NOVEMBER
PILGRIMS
PLYMOUTH

POTATOES
PUMPKIN PIE
STUFFING
THANKSGIVING
TURKEY
YAMS

A Thanksgiving Maze:



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