# NEWSLETTER

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## AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES

**United States Consulate General. Chennai, India**


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***Appointments can be made to:***

- *Add visa pages to undamaged, valid U.S. passport*
- *Passport services other than adding pages*
- *Report the birth abroad of a child of a U.S. citizen and/or apply for the child's first passport, Report of Birth and Social Security Number*
- *Request notarial and other services not listed above*

## Bangalore Appointments

As of now, American Citizen Services does not have any dates scheduled for Bangalore outreach. We will announce the next Bangalore outreach via a Message to American Citizens and on our website. Until then, you can visit us in Chennai. Please enroll with us to receive updates.

**https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/**

## Appointments and Services

Walk-ins for non-emergency services will no longer 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-5:00pm (telephone hours); Monday through Friday, excluding holidays

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.

# Consulate News

**A Greeting from the New Consul General**

I'd like to take this opportunity to greet the American citizens residing in Chennai's consular district. Some of the most important work that we do here at the Consulate relates to the support of Americans living and traveling in India. I am anticipating learning more about the vibrant community of more than 38,000 kids, adults and elderly Americans in the three states and Pondicherry. My team and I look forward to serving you, and to helping you in times of need, throughout my next three years serving in India.
–Jennifer McIntyre

**National Missing Children's Day Was May 25th**

The U.S. Consulate in Chennai Missing Children's Day. Following the disappearance of 6-year-old Etan Patz on May 25, 1979, President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation in 1983 designating this date as National Missing Children's Day in the United States. Since then, other countries have followed suit, making this an internationally-recognized day of hope and remembrance. Click to see Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton's, statement
http://video.state.gov/en/video/950879139001
Follow the Office of Children's Issues on Twitter at http://twitter.com/childrensissues.

**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.

*Districts Where We Need Wardens:*

**Bangalore**

Anand Nagar
Bellandur
HSR Layout
Indira Nagar
Jayanagar
Koramangala
Krishanrajapuram
Malleswaram
New Tippasandra
Sriramapuram
Whitefield

*Districts Where We Need Wardens:*

**Chennai**

Adyar
Anna Nagar
Kodambakkam
Mylapore
Perungudi
T Nagar
Nungambakkam

**Pondicherry,** including Auroville

**Kerala**

Idukki
Kollam
Trivandrum

**Know on the Go**

The Department of State released its new "Smart Traveler" app for U.S. travelers going abroad. The app is compatible with iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad (requires iOS 4.0 or later). Smart Traveler provides easy access to frequently updated official country information, travel alerts, travel warnings, maps, U.S. embassy locations, and more. Travelers can also set up customized e-tineraries to keep track of arrival and departure dates and make notes about upcoming trips. Additionally, the app provides a link for travelers to enroll in the Department's free Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) so the State Department can better assist them in an emergency

**Social Security Visits Chennai**

Chennai was pleased to welcome representatives from OPM (Office of Personnel Management) and SSA (Social Security Administration) to sign up annuitants into Direct Deposit. Our annuitants who have been receiving paper checks thus far were very appreciative of this much awaited implementation. SSA beneficiaries who would like to enroll into Direct Deposit may contact the office in Manila, Philippines, at fbu.manila@ssa.gov. For more information, see http://www.godirect.org/

**We Want to Hear from You**
Have a suggestion for future newsletters?
Please email us at chennaics@state.gov.

photo courtesy of jjpacres

## Smart Traveler Enrollment Program

**Keep us updated!**

The "Travel Registration System" has been renamed to the (STEP) Smart Traveler Enrollment Program. Please visit: https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/ to sign up. It's a free service that keeps you informed during emergencies.

**Stay Informed**. Sign up for our free Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (formerly known as "Travel Registration" or "Registration with Embassies") to receive the latest travel updates and information! When you sign up, you will automatically receive the most current information we compile about the country where you will be traveling or living. You will also receive updates, including Travel Warnings and Travel Alerts (where and when appropriate). You only need to sign up once, and then you can add and delete trips from your account based on your current travel plans!

**Stay Connected**. By connecting with us on the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program, we will be able to assist you better in the case of an emergency, such as if you lose your passport or it is stolen while you are abroad.

We also assist U.S. citizens in other emergencies, such as in natural disasters. For example, after the earthquake in Haiti, we evacuated over 16,700 U.S. citizens. During the civil unrest in Lebanon in 2006 we assisted nearly 15,000 U.S. citizens, and in 2004 we helped thousands more after the tsunami.

The travel and contact information you enter into our Smart Traveler Enrollment Program will make it easier for consular officers in U.S. embassies and consulates around the world to contact you and your loved ones during an emergency —including situations where your family or friends in the U.S. are having problems trying to contact you with important news. Provide you with timely and accurate travel information about every country where you may travel.

**Stay Safe**. We believe that a well-informed traveler is a safer traveler. Our consular officers around the world compile country-specific information, travel alerts, travel warnings, fact sheets and warden messages to provide you with timely and accurate travel information about every country where you may travel.

We include reports on possible risks and security threats so that you can make informed decisions about your travel plans and activities.

Stay informed by connecting with us via our Smart Traveler Enrollment Program so you can have safe and enjoyable travels!

**Your Privacy Is Paramount**- All the personal information you provide to us is protected under the Privacy Act of 1974. This law prohibits us from sharing the information with anyone without your written authorization. Certain exceptions exist, such as when we need to share information on a limited basis in order to protect your safety and welfare in extreme circumstances.

## Other Consular Services

**Medical Information:** New to India? Key information about medical care here, as well as the Consulate's doctors' list. More Information

**Marriage:** Procedures for American Citizens getting married in India. More Information

**Notary and Document Services:** Many documents require authentication or acknowledgment. Appointments are required. More Information

**Social Security:** Here we provide help for those collecting social security from outside the U.S. More Information

**Judicial Assistance:** Key information about how the Consulate can and cannot help citizens. Also, contains a list of attorneys. More Information

**Voter Registration:** How to vote from outside the United States. More Information

**Selective Service:** If you're a male over 18, Uncle Sam needs you to register for the draft. More Information

IRS: Help with filing income tax while overseas. More Information

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## The Exquisite Corpse

Can you write your own ending to the story that started below? For more parts, visit http://www.read.gov/cfb/corpse.html

**A** very unusual and completely amazing story pieced together out of so many parts that it is not possible to describe them all here so go ahead and just start reading...

This story starts with a train rushing through the night. The full moon lights the silver rails winding around dark mountains, through deep woods, and over steep gorges of jagged rock and one freezing cold rushing black mountain river.

I wish there was enough time to describe all of the funny (and touching) twists and turns – especially the Elephant Clown Party – that led up to now. But there isn't. Enough time. Because there is a ticking clock. And the two passengers we care most about don't know anything about it.

In a sleeping berth, in the third car from the end of the train, are two children, eleven- year-old twins, who have just run away from the circus.

The girl's name is Nancy. The boy's name is Joe.

They have no idea that those are not their true names. Though they will figure it out soon enough. Up until two hours ago, Nancy and Joe thought they were orphans. That turned out to be not true either. Joe holds up the "birthday card" that has suddenly changed their lives.

"This is not even in code! If our real Mom and Dad are such secret spies, wouldn't they have at least written in code?

"Maybe they didn't have enough time," said Nancy.

**Happy**
**HELLO. NOW.**
**FOLLOW CLUES.**
**Rescue Us By**
**PIECING TOGETHER THE EXQUISITE CORPSE.**
**Birthday.**
**LOVE, MOM & DAD**

. . . gets right to the point. And there is this mark. The same mark we both have on our right little toe. Who else would know about that?"

Joe frowned. "But we don't really know if we are going to the right place. We don't really know if the Exquisite Corpse is the Top Secret Robot we are supposed to piece together. And we don't really know how to help."

Joe was right to be worried. But he was worried for all of the wrong reasons.

The note was from their real mom and dad. They were going to the right place. The Exquisite Corpse was a very Top Secret Robot that could only be assembled by them. And because they had been raised in a circus, Joe and Nancy had been perfectly trained for just this moment.

Fire juggling, trapeze flips, sharpshooting, bullwhip stunts, lock-picking, lion taming, bareback riding, knife throwing, snake charming, disappearing, sword swallowing, and other circus skills can come in handy in all sorts of situations.

What Joe should have been worried about was the clock – the first ticking clock. Oh, so much more to explain. So little time. Here, you will just have to piece things together yourself:

If the train makes it over the last treacherous gorge, there is a good chance that you and Nancy and Joe will have to deal with werewolves and mad scientists, real ninjas and fake vampires, one roller-skating baby, a talking pig, creatures from another planet (possibly another dimension), killer poetry, clues from classic children's books, two easy riddles, several bad knock knock jokes, plenty of explosions, a monkey disguised as a pirate, two meatballs, a blue plastic Star Wars lunch box (missing its matching thermos), three ticking clocks, and not just one bad guy – but a whole army of villains, cads, scalawags, sneaks, rats, varmints and swindlers. Also several desperados, a gang of evildoers, and one just plain bad egg.

And you-know-who will have to piece together the Exquisite Corpse…

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## Maps – Where Do You Live?

**I** wrote down some basic map concepts that will help you to understand more about maps and the map games that you play today.

Maps and globes: The globe is round. Why is a map flat?

Latitude and longitude: What does the grid on your map represent?

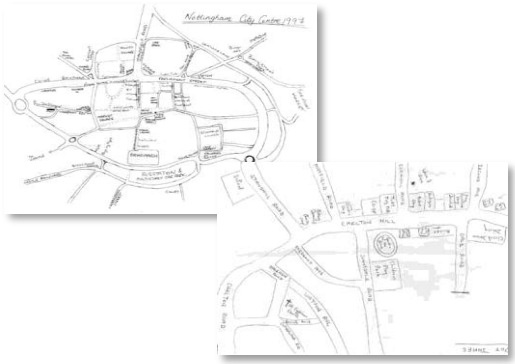
Map projections: Why do same maps look different? How are they made? What is a map scale?

Places and regions: Is my neighborhood part of a region? How are they different? What are state capitals?

### Mental Maps

Humans memorize information about places, regions, paths, etc. in their brain. This information is used for daily tasks, e.g. finding the way to school from home or giving driving directions. Although nobody has seen how the information is organized and stored in the human brain, scientists talk about a "mental map".

A mental map can best be explained as a visual display, inside a person's head, showing where a person has traveled. A mental map shows what the person knows about the location and the uniqueness of a place.



## Can you find all the words about back to school?

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

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| ASSIGNMENTS | ERASER | LUNCHROOM | ROLL CALL |
| BACKPACK | EXAMS | MATH | RULES |
| BATHROOM | FIRST DAY | NEW | SCHOOL BUS |
| BELL | GYMNASIUM | FRIENDS | SCHOOL OFFICE |
| BINDER | HALLWAY | NOTEBOOK | SCHOOLYARD |
| CAFETERIA | HOMEWORK | NURSE | SCIENCE |
| CHALKBOARD | INTERCOM | OLD FRIENDS | SECRETARY |
| CLASSROOM | JANITOR | PADLOCK | SEPTEMBER |
| CLOCK | LANGUAGE | PAPER | SOCIAL |
| COURSES | ARTS | PENCILS | STUDIES |
| DESK | LEARNING | PENS | STUDENT |
| DOORS | LIBRARY | PRINCIPAL | STUDY |
| ENROLL | LOCKER | QUIZZES | TEACHER |

**N**o mental map is alike. Every human has his or her own mental map. Ask your friends to make a sketch of the neighborhood you live in. Most likely all of the drawn "mental maps" will look different.

For more information, visit http://www.fedstats.gov/kids/mapstats/