

AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES U.S. EMBASSY NEW DELHI NEWSLETTER

Winter 2015

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

Useful Links

[U.S. Embassy Website](#)

[Registration and Travel
Information](#)

[Applying for a Passport or Adding
Extra Pages](#)

[Consular Reports of Birth Abroad](#)

[Obtaining an Immigrant Visa for a
Relative or Spouse](#)

[Non-Immigrant Visas](#)

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Authorization, and Immigration
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The U.S. Mission to India announces the arrival of Ambassador Richard Verma on January 2 in New Delhi. He will continue the U.S. Mission's work in advancing the U.S.-India strategic partnership.

Upon arrival, Ambassador Verma said, "I am honored to serve as U.S. Ambassador to India at such an exciting time in our bilateral relationship. I look forward to meeting the Indian people and working together with the Indian government on our shared goals of security, development, and prosperity."

Biography

Ambassador Verma is a former Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs. From 2009-2011, he served as a principal advisor to Secretary Clinton. He led the State Department's budget and policy efforts on Capitol Hill, handled more than 200 Senate confirmations, and managed several major congressional investigations. He was also the Administration's lead negotiator with Congress on Iran sanctions and the ratification of the new START Treaty. He most recently served as a senior counselor at both Steptoe & Johnson and the Albright Stonebridge Group, where his practice focused on international law and global regulatory compliance.

Earlier in his career, Mr. Verma served in the Senate as the senior national security advisor to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. He also worked in the House of Representatives for Defense Appropriations Committee Chairman Jack Murtha. Formerly a country director for the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs in Eastern Europe, Mr. Verma was a senior National Security Fellow at the Center for American Progress, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and served on the boards of the Clinton Foundation, Human Rights First, and the National Democratic Institute.

Mr. Verma served on active duty in the U.S. Air Force from 1994 to 1998. He received his LL.M. with distinction from Georgetown University Law Center, and his J.D. cum laude from American University's Washington College of Law. He holds a B.S. from Lehigh University.

U.S. Citizen Services New Delhi

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, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday**, excluding holidays. Make your appointment online [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 to add additional pages to passports, renew passports, register births abroad, and notarials. For general walk-in questions, you can stop by without an appointment on Thursdays from 3-4:00pm. Emergencies after hours and on weekends call: 2419-8000.

Upcoming U.S. Embassy Holidays

Jan. 1, New Year's Day
Jan. 19, Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday
Jan. 26, Republic Day
Feb. 16, Washington's Birthday
Mar. 6, Holi
Apr. 2, Mahavir Jayanti
Apr. 3, Good Friday
May 4, Buddha Purnima
May 25, Memorial Day
July 4, Independence Day

Upcoming Events

Statement by the Press Secretary on President Obama's Travel to India



At the invitation of Prime Minister Modi, the President will travel to India in January 2015 to participate in the Indian Republic Day celebration in New Delhi as the Chief Guest. This visit will mark the first time a U.S. president will have the honor of attending Republic Day, which commemorates the adoption of India's constitution. The President will meet with the Prime Minister and Indian officials to strengthen and expand the U.S.-India strategic partnership

Indian Tourist Visa On Arrival

India began implementing its tourist visa on arrival (TVOA) scheme for U.S. Citizens last year. While this is exciting news and can expedite the visa process, we strongly encourage travelers to read the full guidelines to avoid any issues upon arrival in India. Regardless of the name, U.S. Citizens cannot apply for the tourist visa upon arrival at the airport. In fact, they must apply online for electronic authorization (ETA) prior to travel.

Important Facts about the Indian TVOA:

1. Travelers must apply for the visa a minimum of four days in advance of travel.
2. Purpose of travel can only be for recreation, sight-seeing, casual visit to meet friends or relatives, short duration medical treatment, or casual business visit.
3. Passport must have at least six months validity remaining from the date of arrival in India, and two empty passport pages.
4. A recent passport photograph.
5. Travelers should have a return ticket or onward journey ticket, with sufficient money to spend during their stay in India.
6. Travelers having a Pakistani Passport or of Pakistani origin must apply for a regular visa at the Indian Mission.
7. Not available to diplomatic/official passport holders.
8. TVOA is only valid for a single entry with a maximum of a 30-day stay and cannot be extended. Travelers also may not request to change to a different visa status.
9. Travelers may only use the TVOA scheme for a maximum of two visits in a calendar year.
10. TVOA is currently only available at nine designated airports: New Delhi, Bengaluru (Bangalore), Chennai, Cochin, Goa, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai, and Trivandrum.

Please read through the TVOA website (<https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/tvoa.html>) thoroughly before traveling.

Ask a consular officer



Surrogacy - Social Security- Adoption- Voting-Passports-Emergency Services -Etc.

The US Embassy in New Delhi is now offering office hours to speak with a consular officer Thursdays from 3:00-3:30pm. No appointment is necessary. This is a question-and-answer session only. Passports, birth certificates, and notaries will not be processed during this time. We will not be answering visa-related questions. This is a new service we'd like to offer our U.S. Citizens in India who prefer a one-on-one and face-to-face opportunity to discuss American Citizen Services.

Surrogacy in India



Indian government regulations about Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART)/ surrogacy and U.S. government regulations about the citizenship of children born via ART/ surrogacy to U.S. citizen parent(s) continue to evolve.

The most recent information from the Government of India can be viewed at:

[Ministry of Home Affairs website](#)

Information from the U.S. Department of State website on regulations controlling whether a child born via ART/ surrogacy may or may not be a U.S. citizen can be found at:

[U.S. Citizens Considering the Use of Assisted Reproductive Technology \(ART\) Abroad](#)

U.S. citizens with additional questions about ART/ surrogacy and U.S. citizenship should make an appointment to visit the American Citizen Services Unit at their nearest Consulate or Embassy.

The Indian government requires prospective surrogate parents to meet certain conditions to qualify for medical visas to come to India. Details of the visa requirement can be found in Frequently Asked Questions on the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs website [here](#).

We advise those considering surrogacy to be sure to check the latest requirements with [Cox & Kings](#) or the Indian Embassy or Consulate nearest you for the most current information on who is eligible for a medical visa and the consequences of coming to India to commission surrogacy without the proper visa.

Individuals and couples who do not meet the new conditions for a medical visa, but have surrogacies already in process, should contact the embassy by email at acsnd@state.gov.