

AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES U.S. EMBASSY NEW DELHI NEWSLETTER

Summer 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](#)

[Green Cards, Employment
Authorization, and Immigration
Services and Benefits:](#)

[Medical and Legal Assistance](#)

[Emergency Services for U.S.
Citizens](#)

[Selective Service System](#)

[Social Security Administration](#)

[Internal Revenue Service](#)



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.

For more information on FVAP or assistance with the absentee voting process, or the upcoming election dates, visit FVAP.gov, call FVAP at 1-800-438-VOTE or DSN 425-1584 (CONUS)/312-425-1584 (OCONUS), or email vote@fvap.gov or Votewdelhi@state.gov. Remember, you also can contact your unit or installation voting assistance officers for assistance during any step of the process.

Elimination of Visa Page Inserts

Effective Jan. 1, 2016, the Department of State will no longer provide supplemental 24-page Visa Page Inserts (VPIs, or extra pages) for passports. To reduce the impact of this coming change, new passport applicants now receive 52-page passports. We encourage everyone to plan accordingly.

Assistance with Federal Benefits

Social Security celebrates its 80th anniversary this year and has made it easy for millions of Americans to get effective service and assistance by using on-line service:

What You Can Do Online

(<http://www.ssa.gov/onlineservices/>)

List of Services

[Apply for Social Security benefits](#)

Retirement or Spouse's

benefits [[Learn More](#)]

Medicare [[Learn More](#)]

Disability [[Learn More](#)]

Note: You can create a *my Social Security* account with us and [view your Social Security Statement online](#) at any time.

Health

Exploring a foreign country provides a once in a lifetime opportunity to immerse yourself in an exciting new culture. It also can provide a whole new host of possible diseases, tainted food and drink, and health risks. Whether it's a broken bone or food poisoning, be prepared in case of a health emergency overseas. Plan ahead before you commence travel for your vacation and protect yourself. Take care.

Get news and information for students traveling abroad. For most U.S. schools – colleges and universities, class sessions start after Labor Day.

<http://travel.state.gov/content/studentsabroad/en/travel-docs.html>

- Staying Healthy Abroad
- Alcohol and Drugs Overseas
- Insurance: For you and Your Stuff
- Safety Tips for Going Abroad
- If you are a Victim of a Crime Abroad
- Voting Abroad
- For Women Travelers

For current health issues related to specific destinations please go to: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/>

About Dengue

Mosquito-borne diseases dengue and "chikungunya" are vastly under-reported in India and awareness about symptoms is very low, a new study by Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health shows, indicating the Indian government will need greater action to battle the infections that affect several thousand annually. If you exhibit any of the symptoms below – please seek immediate medical help to fend off dengue or chikungunya infections. (Hindus Time July 2015).

MOSQUITO MAYHEM

DENGUE

TRANSMISSION: Bite of the aedes aegypti mosquito

SYMPTOMS: Fever, headache, muscle pain with or without measles-like rash, nausea and vomiting

OUTBREAKS: Africa, Asia, Europe and the Indian and Pacific oceans.

TREATMENT: No vaccine, supportive treatment to treat pain and fever

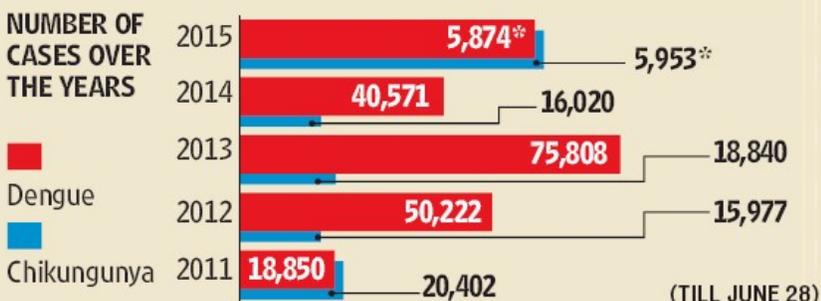
CHIKUNGUNYA

TRANSMISSION: Bite of the aedes aegypti mosquito

SYMPTOMS: Fever, joint pain with or without headache, muscle pain, joint swelling or rash

OUTBREAKS: Africa, Asia, Europe and the Indian and Pacific oceans.

TREATMENT: No vaccine, painkillers and paracetamol to treat aches and fever



Before you pack your bags!

Please secure your bags, and check the items in your luggage – you may have inadvertently thrown in some things that are not allowed upon entry into India by Indian Customs officials. For more information about goods subject to duties and allowances and items that are prohibited, please visit the Indian Customs homepage at http://www.cbec.gov.in/trvler-guide_ason22may2013.pdf

If you are traveling by train, lock your sleeping compartments and take your valuables with you when leaving your berth. If you travel by air, be careful with your bags in the arrival and departure areas outside airports. Violent crime, especially directed against foreigners, has traditionally been uncommon, although in recent years there has been a modest increase. U.S. citizens, especially **women** are caution NOT to travel alone in India. Please see more information on this at <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/country/india.html>



We highly recommend to register with Smart Enrollement Program (STEP) <https://step.state.gov/step>

Stay Informed, Stay Connected, Stay Safe!

Questions?

Country Specific Information please go to <http://travel.state.gov>

For **Routine ACS Services** –please make an appointment at: <http://newdelhi.usembassy.gov/service/appointment-and-contact-info.html>



Monsoon Blues/Typhoon Season

July and August together account for 62% of the monsoon rainfall and much of the planting of crops takes place in these two months. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) in April forecast below-average monsoon rainfall for the second successive year in 2015. Monsoon rainfall is expected to be below normal in July as well as August. While a low pressure system has caused rain in the last few days, we are expecting the negative impact of El Niño to intensify,” according to the head of the long-range forecasting division at IMD. But, whatever the forecast is, it is prudent to be prepared for the worst, i.e. drought, heavy rain or landslides during periods of heavy rain.

For more information please visit the official [Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre](#) in the region which is the [India Meteorological Department](#) (IMD), while the [Joint Typhoon Warning Center](#) releases unofficial advisories. On average, four to six storms form in this basin every season. For more information please check the IMD home page: http://www.indiaweather.gov.in/?page_id=281

To learn more on how to best prepare for natural disasters please visit the State Department website at: <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/emergencies/crisis-support.html>

Suggestions: If you have any suggestions about how we can improve our services, please send them to us at: ACSND@state.gov.

HAVE A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE SUMMER!