



In Touch South India

Headlines from the U.S. Consulate General Chennai

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Greetings!

The American Consulate in Chennai continues to be busy. Visa, public affairs, commercial, HIV/AIDS and environmental programs are all increasing in scope. As you read through this issue of In Touch South India, I hope you will see that we remain committed to improving and extending our services. The US-India political, commercial and cultural relationship continues to strengthen, and South India is in the vanguard of that development. The articles below touch on some of the ways the Consulate seeks to join with you in that grand enterprise.



Richard D. Haynes
Consul General of the United States of America

Chennai's consular chief and two Internet "Web chats" on the introduction of applicant fingerprinting, the celebrity media event was part of a consulate-wide drive to publicize and explain the fingerprinting requirement to the public in a consular district that spans five states and includes 230 million people. The



Consul General Richard Haynes with celebrities Mr. Kamalahasan, Ms. Trisha, Mr. Suriya, Mr. Karthik Raja and Mr. Venkatesh Prasad during issuance of Bio Visas; also seen are Mr. Michael Thomas, Consular Chief and Mr. Ravi Candadai, Public Affairs Officer

Did you Know?

Presidential election in which a loser won took place in November 1824, the first election in which popular votes were counted as well as electoral votes.

The year in which two presidents were elected was 1861, after the formation of the Confederacy as a rival government.

Visa Section

On July 26 Consulate General Chennai introduced the fingerprinting of visa applicants with the help of some of South India's most recognizable celebrities. Superstar Kamal Haasan - Tamil film's answer to Harrison Ford - along with rising young stars Trisha and Surya, cricketer Venkatesh Prasad and musician Kaarthik Raja - demonstrated the ease of inkless fingerprinting to the South Indian public.

Along with regional newspaper interviews with

media campaign proved to be one of post's most successful, with more than 100 million South Indians catching the news of the advantages of fingerprinting on TV, in newspapers, on the radio, and on the Web.

From AIRC: Some Interesting data from the November 2002 Elections

Jennifer Cheeseman Day and Kelly Holder. United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. July 28, 2004.

According to this report released by the U.S. Census Bureau 128 million people registered to vote in the 2002 congressional elections, a record number for a non-presidential election. Another record number, 89 million, reported they had voted in the elections. The report finds that people who are older, married, have at least a bachelor's degree, and women were more likely to vote. Among registered nonvoters in 2002, about 27 percent reported they did not vote because they were too busy or had conflicting work or school schedules.

Regionally, citizens residing in the Midwest were more likely to register (69 percent) and to vote (49 percent) than those in other regions. Voting rates in the Northeast, South and West were about 45 percent each. The West had

Days to Remember

September 6
Labor Day

September 11, 2001
Attack on America
Anniversary

October 11
Columbus Day Observance

October 24, 1945
United Nations Day



American Facts..... **US Presidents who visited India**

- ★ 1959 - Dwight D. Eisenhower
- ★ 1969 - Richard M. Nixon
- ★ 1978 - Jimmy Carter
- ★ 2000 - Bill Clinton

Source: http://www.indiagov.org/indusrel/clinton_india/home.html



the lowest registration rate (63 percent), while the Northeast and South each had around 67 percent. Excluding North Dakota, which has no voter registration, Maine and Minnesota had the highest levels of voter registration in the country at about 80 percent. The states with the highest voter turnout rates were Minnesota and South Dakota, at around 67 percent each.

Other highlights:

* Among those registered to vote, turnout was 71 percent for non-Hispanic whites, 68 percent for blacks, 63 percent for Asians and Pacific Islanders and 58 percent for Hispanics.

* Among registered voters in 2002, Hispanics who were naturalized citizens were more likely to vote (64 percent) than were their counterparts who were U.S. citizens by birth (56 percent).

* Among people who registered to vote between 1995 and 2002, a ratio of 4-in-10 registered at a state motor vehicle department.

Report: <http://www.census.gov/prod/2004pubs/p20-552.pdf>

Data Tables: <http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/voting/p20-552.html>

New at American Information Resource Center (AIRC)

Brinkley, Douglas. **Wheels for the World: Henry Ford, His Company, and a Century of Progress, 1903-2003** / Douglas Brinkley. New York, NY: Viking, 2003 (338.76292 FOR)



Carlson, Allan C. **The Family in America: Searching for Social Harmony in the Industrial Age** / Allan Carlson. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers, 2003 (306.85 CAR)

The Future of the City of Intellect: The Changing American University / edited by Steven Brint. Stanford, CA.: Stanford University Press, 2002 (378.73 FUT)

Goodsell, Charles T. **The Case for Bureaucracy: A Public Administration Polemic** / Charles T. Goodsell. 4th ed. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 2004 (302.35 GOO)

Management: Inventing and Delivering its Future / edited by Thomas A. Kochan and Richard L. Schmalensee. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2003 (658 MAN)

Miller, William Lee. **The First Liberty: America's Foundation in Religious Freedom** / William, Lee Miller. Expanded and updated ed. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2003 (323.44 MIL)

Oatley, Thomas. **International Political Economy: Interests and Institutions in the Global Economy** / Thomas Oatley. New York, NY: Pearson/Longman, 2004 (337 THO)

Poets of World War II / edited by Harvey Shapiro. New York, NY: Library of America, 2003 (811.52 POE)

Articles

AMERICA IN ISLAM. By Hillel Fradkin. Public Interest, Spring 2004, pp. 37-55.

DEAD SOULS. By Samuel P. Huntington. National Interest, Spring 2004, pp. 5-18.

HIGHER EDUCATION CROSSES BORDERS. By Philip G. Altbach. Change, March/April 2004, pp. 18-24.

GOOD GOVERNANCE: THE METAMORPHOSIS OF A POLICY METAPHOR. By Martin Doornbos. Journal of International Affairs, Fall 2003, pp. 3-17.

THE IMPORTANCE OF MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION. By Geneva Gay. Educational Leadership, December 2003, pp 30-35.

American Citizen Services (ACS)

The Warden System

ACS is humming with activity these days. Welcome Swapna Jain, our new ACS assistant. Swapna joined the ACS staff on August 9.

Presidential Election 2004 - It is not too late to request an absentee ballot for the 2004 Presidential Election. Americans abroad can make a difference. Download forms at www.fvap.gov and mail to the Consulate or walk-in Monday through Friday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm and 1:30 pm - 4:00pm.

Warden System Update - One of our top priorities in ACS is our new warden system which will provide our wardens with a more geographically equitable distribution of American citizens in their district. We're approaching this project in five phases starting with a pilot program in Chennai then Bangalore, Hyderabad, southern Kerala, and rural areas. This innovative system will open new avenues of support for American citizens in India.

ACS Wardens are essential U.S. citizen volunteers who help us assist U.S. citizens in need and disseminate vital information to the American community in India. A warden network is an especially effective way to communicate with U.S. citizens residing in a post's consular district.

To this end, our wardens assist the Consulate in a number of ways:

- * Helping to select and appointing at least one sub-warden or alternate who can substitute for the primary warden in his or her absence;
- * Assisting the Consulate in the maintenance of up-to-date physicians and attorneys lists;
- * Encouraging all American Citizens to register with the Consulate;
- * Developing a "pyramid method" or "cascade" approach for contacting the individuals within the area of responsibility;
- * Assisting during any emergency by:
 - Receiving instructions from the Consulate and answering questions from those individuals in the warden's area of responsibility;
 - Passing, receiving, and distributing messages on the status of the emergency and suggest actions to be taken;
 - Transmit messages to those in the warden area;
- * Being prepared to provide the Consulate with the names and status of those individuals contacted and not contacted within the warden's area of responsibility

To volunteer to be a warden, please send an email to ChennaiCS@state.gov

U.S. Consulate Introduces South India to New Security Initiatives

Consul General Richard Haynes and Political/Economic Section Chief John Gorkowski spoke to a Seminar on the Proliferation Security Initiative on August 3, 2004. The Centre for Security Analysis and the Delhi Policy Group hosted this highly successful event, which brought together U.S. and Indian experts on nonproliferation and counter-terrorism measures. Dr. Haynes's address laid the groundwork for understanding the "PSI as a Concept." The Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) is a response to the growing challenge posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), their delivery systems, and related materials worldwide. The PSI seeks to involve all states that have a stake in nonproliferation and the ability and willingness to take steps to stop the flow of such items at sea, in the air, or on land. The PSI is an activity and its participants are committed to four interdiction principles that promote effective coordination and cooperation of efforts. Mr. Gorkowski spoke on the Container Security Initiative (CSI), which U.S. Customs and Border Protection developed to protect U.S. and overseas

ports and the global trading system from terrorist attack. Additional information on PSI is available online at www.state.gov/t/np and www.usinfo.gov. For more information on CSI go online to www.cbp.gov

USCS

The business of doing business in South India continues to get easier and more profitable for foreign firms. In a recent domestic survey by a leading Indian publication, the South Indian states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh all made the top ten list of places where foreign companies want to do business-now and in the near future.

The U.S. Commercial Service (USCS) in South India is likewise in-step with this trend. Our offices in Chennai, Bangalore and Hyderabad offer a full range of market services designed to help U.S. exporters introduce their products and services to Indians and to find suitable local partners. USCS also assists U.S. companies with market analysis reports on up-coming projects and, when needed, provides company-specific advocacy support. For many Indians looking to do business with the U.S. for the first time, our Business Information Centers (BIC), located in each USCS office in India, are probably the best, first stop. For consultations on specific business opportunities, a meeting with our industry Specialists is highly recommended.

USCS also works closely with local- and national-level industry organizations in India, such as the Confederation of Indian Industry, the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce, American Chambers of Commerce throughout the country, in addition to several major regional trade organizations. USCS additionally organizes and participates in major trade events that promote U.S. goods and services and recruits buyer delegations to leading U.S. and regional trade fairs and shows.

In September USCS will have buyer delegations at the IMTS Show 2004 in Chicago and another in Singapore for the Hospimedica Asia 2004 show. Again in September, USCS South India, in conjunction with other U.S. Government agencies, will play a leading role in a Chennai-based Solid Waste Management Seminar. USCS will participate in the forthcoming Aero India 2005 exhibition to be held in Bangalore during February 2005. Several other events are under evaluation, including a buyer delegation to Cosmoprof Asia in Hong Kong and Power Gen International in Orlando (both in November) and a Bio Asia exhibition in Hyderabad in February 2005.

Of interest to U.S. exporters and those Indian companies looking to source U.S. goods and services is USCS's role in coordinating the activities in South India of two important U.S.

People to People

Talking to Indians about conflict resolution is like bringing coal into New Castle. The land of Gandhi has much to teach the rest of the world about conflict resolution and conciliation.

Professor Hillel Levine, Professor of Sociology, Boston University. Professor Levine visited India recently on a lecture tour on Conflict Resolution.

What a sublime atmosphere prevails in American libraries! The facilities for various age groups, including children and senior citizens truly reflect the importance that is attached to reading.

Ms. G. Thilakavathy, Director General of Police (Coastal Guard), Tamil Nadu, who recently returned after a month's stay in the US.

government agencies that promote trade: The Export-Import Bank of the United States (ExIm) and the U.S. Trade Development Administration (TDA).

ExIm is a U.S. Government financial institution that provides loans, loan guarantees, and export insurance to U.S. exporters and their Indian clients. ExIm already has an impressive portfolio in India, but, after a visit by the ExIm Chairman in early 2004, ExIm is ready to do more. TDA is an independent export-promotion agency of the U.S. Government that provides grants to Indian business or Government entities to perform feasibility studies or to allow their personnel to undergo needed training.

For more information on all of USCS South India's programs and services, please visit our website <http://www.buyusa.gov/India> or send an email to chennai.office.box@mail.doc.gov

OSAC

Have you ever heard of the Overseas Security Advisory Council?

OSAC country councils have been established in over 60 cities worldwide to enhance the exchange of security-related information abroad and serve as an effective partnership between the U.S. Embassy/Consulate and American private sector businesses. In 1985, a handful of chief executive officers from prominent American companies met with Secretary of State George P. Shultz to promote cooperation between the American private sector worldwide and the U.S. Government on security issues. The subsequent establishment of the Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) has developed into an enormously successful joint venture. Over 1,700 U.S. companies and organizations are affiliated with OSAC and receive the tools needed to cope with security issues abroad.

These councils encourage managers of U.S. enterprises with security responsibilities to organize themselves to cope with security-related problems by pooling their resources.

Key representatives of these councils and U.S. Embassy/Consulate security officers, as well as other post officials, develop working relationships to create an exchange of information through which pertinent security information is shared in a timely fashion. There are OSAC Country councils as well as regional chapters within the country.

In India the country council is located in New Delhi with regional chapters in Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore and a recently established chapter in Hyderabad.

For more information about becoming an OSAC member please contact Regional Security Officer Nick Sabruno by e-mail at the U.S. Consulate sabrunoda@state.gov

You can also visit the India Country Council website at <http://newdelhi.ds-osac.org> or the main OSAC website at www.ds-osac.org

USAEP

New water recovery technology demonstrations in 13 locations throughout India

were supported by The Council for State Government/United States Asia Environmental Partnership (CSG/US-AEP) State Environmental Partnership. The technology,



Outlet and Inlet to the VSEP Plant

supplied by New Logic Research's Vibratory Shear Enhanced Process (VSEP) utilized a patented, fouling-resistant membrane filtration system which can be used in place of conventional treatment systems. Some of the benefits included delivering sustained, precise separation in a single pass.

One demonstration location was AD Textiles in Karur. The demonstration was carried out in September 2003 for a period of one week. Recovery rates of 80% and above were recorded. This has benefited the industry in several ways, namely:

- * Reliable source of process water.
- * Reduced dependence on ground water and tanker water (from neighbouring towns and villages).
- * Improved waste treatment and regulatory compliance.
- * Reduced land area (conventional treatment hitherto relied on solar evaporation which required a land area of 18,000 m² (4.5 acres).
- * Ability to operate the factory during the rainy season as the solar evaporation basin would overflow during the rainy season with significant environmental pollution.
- * Economic benefits from recycling water and salt (Rs. 10,000/day).

Photo Corner



Mr. D. Sreenivasalu, Vice Chairman, Visakhapatnam Urban Development Authority browsing the photo-exhibit *American Roadside Architecture* during the inauguration of the Exhibit at Vizag on August 26, 2004