



New Delhi Korma

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COVID-19 Update: New Requirements for Entering United States

Effective January 26, all airline passengers to the United States ages two years and older must provide a negative COVID-19 viral test taken within three calendar days of travel. Alternatively, travelers to the U.S. may provide documentation from a licensed health care provider of having recovered from COVID-19 in the 90 days preceding travel.

You can find more information from the Centers for Disease Controls and Prevention (CDC) [here](#).

You may be able to take a COVID-19 test at the New Delhi International Airport. For more information, go [here](#).

For the latest COVID-19 update from U.S. Embassy New Delhi, go [here](#).

For a list of local doctors in the New Delhi area who may be able to help you arrange a COVID-19 test, go [here](#).

Update on Services for American Citizens

The United States Embassy and Consulates in India are providing limited in-person services to U.S. citizens at this time. Adult U.S. citizens using form [DS-82](#) to renew a previous passport must send those applications by mail to the Embassy or Consulate responsible for the state where the applicant resides.

Limited appointment slots are now available [online](#). Additional appointment times will be made available each week. Please note that appointment availability is reduced to ensure the safety of our customer through proper social distancing. If you have an immediate need to travel, or another urgent circumstance, please email us at ACSND@state.gov. For more information, click [here](#).

Stay Safe from COVID-19

While the United States and India have both approved vaccines to prevent serious COVID-19 infections, you should still take steps to preserve your health and avoid contracting COVID-19.

- Wear a [mask](#) to protect yourself and others and stop the spread of COVID-19.
- [Stay at least 6 feet \(about 2 arm lengths\)](#) from others who don't live with you.
- Avoid crowds. The more people you are in contact with, the more likely you are to be exposed to COVID-19.

For more tips on staying safe through the ongoing pandemic, check out [this site](#) from CDC.



Commercial Flight Status

For those U.S. citizens in India on tourist visas, the Embassy strongly encourages you to continue monitoring the [status of international flights](#). Indian immigration officials have stated that U.S. citizens currently in India on tourist visas that have been extended due to COVID will be given no more than 30 days after the resumption of flights to depart India. A decision to resume flights could come this spring and U.S. citizens with tourist visas should begin preparing for their departure from India in accordance with Indian immigration law. For questions regarding your legal status in India, please contact the Foreigner Regional Registration Office.

COVID-19 Vaccine Update

The U.S. government does not plan to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to private U.S. citizens overseas. Please follow host country developments and guidelines for COVID-19 vaccination. The Government of India began administering two locally produced vaccinations to healthcare and frontline workers, as well as people over 50 years of age and people with comorbidities, on January 16, 2021. Vaccinations for the general public are not yet available. Once open to the public, individuals will have to register on the Co-Win app and submit identification. Speak to your local healthcare provider for more information about when the vaccines will be available and how to register.

Embassy Holidays

U.S. Embassy New Delhi will be closed the following days:

- February 15 – President's Day
- March 29 – Holi
- April 2 – Good Friday
- May 14 – Id ul Fitr
- May 31 – Memorial Day





Meet the Chargé d'Affaires

As of January 21, 2021, Donald L. Heflin is now the U.S. Chargé d'Affaires to India. Heflin brings 30 years of experience in the U.S. Department of State. He has spent much of his career working on Consular issues, including American Citizen Services.

Heflin earned a J.D. from the University of Alabama in 1983. After practicing law for several years, his strong interest in foreign policy drew him to join the U.S. Foreign Service in 1987. His extensive career has included important leadership positions, including U.S. Ambassador to Cabo Verde, Minister Counselor of Consular Affairs for Mexico, and most recently Minister Counselor of Consular Affairs for India.

This is not the first time Heflin has served in India. He previously served as a Vice Consul in Chennai in 1990. When asked how India has changed in the last 30 years, he said, "The buildings are taller, but it still feels the same. The people of India are still as kind, generous, and welcoming as ever. This was a wonderful place to bring my children, and my wife and I are happy to be back."

Heflin is proud of the work the U.S. Mission to India has done to provide essential services to Americans through the pandemic. He hopes to be able to expand all consular services in the near future.

When asked about his expectations for the new year, Heflin said, "As vaccines become more widespread, I expect to see our services normalize through the summer. When Indians are ready to travel again, we will be here to provide visa services. Above all, serving Americans in India remains our top priority, and we will continue to be here for Americans when they need us."

Please join us in welcoming Chargé Heflin and wishing him the best of luck in his new role!

File Your Taxes for Free!

Starting February 12, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will begin accepting income tax filings for income earned in the year 2020. Tax returns must be submitted by **April 15, 2021**.

The IRS offers options to file your tax return free of charge on their website. For more information, click [here](#).

Economic Impact Payments

Still waiting for your Economic Impact (Stimulus) Payment for COVID-19 relief? Check with the IRS to verify your bank account details and your eligibility. For more information, go [here](#).

For all IRS services, it is your responsibility to ensure your mailing address and direct deposit information is up to date. Visit the [IRS website](#) for more information.



President Biden's Inaugural Address

On January 20, 2021, Joseph R. Biden, Jr. was sworn in as the 46th President of the United States of America. If you missed the inauguration, you can find President Biden's remarks to the nation [here](#).



Do you have family and friends hoping to visit the United States in the near future? Beginning February 1, 2021, U.S. Embassy New Delhi resumed limited processing of all visa categories, including student visas, H1-B, H4, L-1, L-2, C1/D, and B1/B2 visas. Our capacity is limited, however, to maintain the safety of our customers and staff. For more information, go [here](#).

Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)

The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) is a free service to allow U.S. citizens and nationals traveling and living abroad to enroll their trip with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. By enrolling in STEP, you will:

- Receive important information from the Embassy about safety conditions in your destination country.
- Help us contact you in an emergency, whether natural disaster, civil unrest, or family emergency.
- Help family and friends get in touch with you in an emergency.

Visit the [STEP website](#) to register or for more information.

U.S. Government Links

[U.S. Embassy New Delhi](#)

[American Citizen Services New Delhi](#)

[U.S. Department of State](#)

[Travel information](#)

[Ordering vital records](#)

[Voting information](#)

Indian Government Links

[Foreigner Regional Registration Office \(FRRO\)](#)

[Bureau of Immigration](#)