

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

APRIL 30, 2021 PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION

On April 30, 2021, the President signed a Proclamation that restricted the entry into the United States of any foreign national nonimmigrant who has been present in India within the 14 days prior to their entry or attempted entry into the United States. Please note that the President's April 30, 2021 Proclamation does not affect U.S. citizens, Legal Permanent Residents, or immigrant visa holders traveling to the United States, as well as certain categories of nonimmigrant visa holders.

Please note that most nonimmigrant visa and travel document holders cannot travel to the United States without applying for a National Interest Exception.

For more information on which travelers are affected by the Presidential Proclamation, please visit our website: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/News/visas-news/presidential-proclamation-on-the-suspension-of-entry-as-nonimmigrants-of-certain-additional-persons-who-pose-a-risk-of-transmitting-coronavirus-disease-2019.html>

For information on how to apply for an NIE, please see our FAQ page: <https://in.usembassy.gov/visas/national-interest-exception-frequently-asked-questions/>

CURRENT OPERATIONAL STATUS

The U.S. Consulate General Mumbai is only able to provide essential services to U.S. citizens and limited visa services until further notice due to the second wave of the spread of COVID-19 and its variants.

Accordingly, some scheduled appointments – for both immigrant and nonimmigrant visas – will be cancelled. The Consulate will notify applicants directly by email regarding appointment cancellations and is unable to speculate on or respond to inquiries regarding potential future cancellations or appointment availability.

Applicants who have not been notified that their appointment has been cancelled should plan to attend their interview appointment on the scheduled date and time.

We will resume routine visa services as soon as possible but are unable to provide a specific date at this time. A phased resumption of routine services will be on a post-by-post basis, in accordance with the State Department's framework for safely returning our workforce to Department facilities. As local conditions improve and we are able to increase visa services in a manner that keeps both our staff and customers safe, we will advise the public. You can read more about the phased resumption of routine visa services as local conditions improve at <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/News/visas-news.html>

If your case is refused under Section 221(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, please contact us after we have resumed routine visa services. You may also submit any outstanding documents at that time.

DROP BOX APPLICATIONS

Consular sections across India have also suspended drop box applications for renewals of all nonimmigrant visa categories at Visa Application Centers.

VISA FEE VALIDITY EXTENSION

The U.S. Embassy and Consulates in India understand that many visa applicants have paid the visa application processing fee and are still waiting to schedule a visa appointment. We are working diligently to restore all routine visa operations as quickly and safely as possible. In the meantime, rest assured that the U.S. Mission will extend the validity of your payment (known as the MRV fee) until September 30, 2022, to allow all applicants who were unable to schedule a visa appointment as a result of the suspension of routine consular operations an opportunity to schedule and/or attend a visa appointment with the already paid fee. Please continue to monitor this site for information on when we will return to routine visa operations.

EMERGENCY APPOINTMENTS

Applicants with an urgent matter who need to travel immediately should follow the guidance at www.ustraveldocs.com/in to request an emergency appointment. Examples of an urgent matter include medical emergencies and medical personnel, particularly those working to treat or mitigate the effects of COVID-19. Requests for an expedited appointment cannot be accepted by email.

Keep in mind that with the suspension of routine visa operations, submitting an expedite request does not guarantee you will be granted an appointment. Requests that do not meet the criteria for an emergency appointment under our current operating posture may not be considered until a later phase in our resumption of routine services.

The consulate reviews expedite requests in the order in which they were received. As a default, your request will remain open in the system until the consulate is able to review it. Once a decision on your expedited appointment request has been made, you will receive notification. The consulate cannot guarantee when it will be able to resume visa services or consider requests for expedited appointments.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSING

Applications may be refused under Section 221(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act for mandatory administrative processing. U.S. immigration law requires that additional steps be completed in some cases before a file can be reconsidered for adjudicative review. Your visa application will be reconsidered when administrative processing is complete. The timeframe for administrative processing varies based on the individual circumstances of each case.

While we cannot predict when the administrative processing will be completed, please be assured that the consulate and the Department of State are aware of your concerns and will ensure that the application is reconsidered as soon as the administrative processing of your case has been completed. We will contact you as soon as the processing of your case is complete. You can also check the status of your visa at <https://ceac.state.gov/CEAC/>

SECTION 214(b) OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT (INA)

Section 214(b) of the INA requires all applicants to overcome the presumption of immigrant intent by establishing that they have sufficient professional, economic, and social ties to assure their departure after a limited stay in the United States. Applicants must also demonstrate to the visa officer that they will abide by the terms of the visa class.

If you are refused a visa under section 214(b), you may reapply for a visa by going online to www.ustraveldocs.com/in. There is no appeal or waiver process available in these cases.

U.S. CITIZENS

U.S. citizens who wish to depart India should take advantage of commercial transportation options.

We urge U.S. citizens to enroll in STEP at step.state.gov in order to receive critical information related to health and safety in India.

Please visit the Indian Ministry of Health and Family Welfare [website](#) for the latest information on travel restrictions.

We also recommend you monitor our social media (<https://twitter.com/USAndIndia> and <https://www.facebook.com/India.usembassy/>), in addition to our website.

LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS (LPR)

An LPR who remains outside the United States for over one year without a valid re-entry permit has jeopardized his/her legal resident status. If you wish to return to the United States as an LPR, a relative in the United States may file a new immigrant visa petition on your behalf, or you may apply for a Returning Resident (SB-1) visa.

If you would like to apply for an SB-1 visa, please follow the instructions at <https://in.usembassy.gov/visas/immigrant-visas/returning-resident-visa> **after we have resumed routine visa services**. Alternatively, you may resubmit your inquiry to support-india@ustraveldocs.com **after we have resumed routine visa services**.

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

Please note there are travel restrictions for certain countries. Refer to the “Presidential Proclamations Regarding Novel Coronavirus” at <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/covid-19-information.html> for more information.

Before traveling to the United States, travelers should research COVID-related guidelines according to the U.S. state of the destination. Quarantine and self-isolation guidelines differ from state to state. Each state maintains a website with information about current guidelines for entering that state. For more information on quarantine and testing procedures, see the Center for Disease Control and Prevention website at [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)

Upon arrival to the United States, passengers proceed through standard customs processing then towards entry screening, where they are asked additional questions about their medical history, current condition, and contact information for local health authorities. This process may take more time than usual.

Travelers should be aware that advisories and guidelines can change. For the most up-to-date information, visit travel.state.gov for travel advisories and <https://in.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/security-and-travel-information/> for India-specific guidelines [\[OS4\]](#) [\[MS5\]](#) .

NEGATIVE COVID-19 TEST REQUIRED FOR TRAVEL

Effective January 26, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will require all air passengers entering the United States to present a negative COVID-19 test (a viral detection test for SARS-CoV-2 approved or authorized by the relevant national authority), taken within 72 hours of departure. Airlines must confirm the negative test result for all passengers before boarding. Airlines must deny boarding of passengers if they do not provide documentation of a negative test or recovery. This requirement is separate from the visa application process. All Presidential Proclamations restricting travel due to COVID-19 remain in place and continue to apply to subject potential travelers regardless of their test results or vaccination status. Travelers holding a National Interest Exception also remain subject to all applicable pre-departure testing requirements.

HOLIDAYS AND CLOSURES

The U.S. Consulate General Mumbai and the Visa Application Centers observe both U.S. and India holidays and will be closed on those dates. You can find the list of holiday closing dates at in.usembassy.gov.

For more information, visit <https://in.usembassy.gov> and <http://www.ustraveldocs.com/in>, particularly our frequently asked questions (FAQs) at [\[OS1\]](#) [\[OS2\]](#) [\[MS3\]](#) <http://www.ustraveldocs.com/in/general-information.html#faqs>.