

SECURITY BRIEFING

Non-Chief Of Mission Personnel

Developed by USIEF/PAS and Regional Security Office

U.S. Consulate General, Hyderabad, India

Action:

Please read notice and sign the last page.

Visitors to India are subject to all laws of the Republic of India and enjoy no diplomatic status in the country

COUNTRY DESCRIPTION:

India, the world's largest democracy, has a very diverse population, geography, and climate. India is the world's second most populous country, and the world's seventh largest country in area.

U.S. DIPLOMATIC MISSION TO INDIA DESCRIPTION:

The U.S. Mission to India consists of a U.S. Embassy and four Consulates General. U.S. Embassy New Delhi is located in the country's capital. The Mission's four Consulates are Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and **Hyderabad**. Thirty-seven USG agencies are represented by Mission India.

U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL HYDERABAD, INDIA:

Ms. Katherine Hadda is the current Consul General (CG). The [U.S. Consulate General in Hyderabad](#) is located at Paigah Palace, 1-8-323 Chiran Fort Lane, Begumpet, Secunderabad, Telangana, 500003; telephone 91-40-4033-8300; fax 91-40-4033-8301. The switchboard telephone number is +91 40 40338300. U.S. Vonage is (703) 349-1011. Hyderabad's hours of operation are 08:30 - 17:30, M-F.

**The local equivalent to the "911" emergency line for police in India is "100."
An additional emergency number, "112," can be accessed from mobile phones.**

For ambulance service, the number is "108."

HYDERABAD CITY DESCRIPTION:

[Hyderabad](#) is the capital of the Indian state of [Telangana](#) in Southern India. Hyderabad has a population of almost 8 million people, making it the fourth most populous city in India, and the city covers an area of approximately 250 square miles, making it one of the largest metropolitan areas in India.

SAFETY AND CRIME:

While India is generally safe for foreign visitors, host nation authorities report that rape is one of the fastest growing crimes in India. Women are cautioned not to travel alone in India. Foreign women continue to report incidents of verbal and physical harassment by groups of men. Known locally as "Eve-teasing," but no doubt it is sexual harassment, these incidents can be quite frightening. Eve-teasing can occur anytime or anywhere, but most frequently has happened in crowded areas such as in market places, train stations, buses, and public streets. Avoid use of public transport after dark without the company of known and trustworthy companions, restrict evening entertainment to well-known venues, and avoid isolated areas when alone at any time of day. The harassment can range from sexually suggestive or lewd comments, to catcalls, to outright groping and physical contact. If you are a woman traveling in India, you are advised to respect local conservative dress and customs.

Petty crime, especially theft of personal property (including U.S. passports), is common, particularly on trains or buses, at airports, and in major tourist areas. Travellers should maintain visual and physical control over their purses, backpacks, luggage, and other items at all times. Pickpockets can be very adept and women have reported having their bags snatched, purse-straps cut, or the bottom of their purses slit without their knowledge. 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. Be cautious about displaying cash or expensive items to reduce the chance of being a target for robbery or other crime, and be aware of your surroundings when you use ATMs. ATM card scams have been used to clone credit card details to withdraw money.

Because U.S. citizens' purchasing power is comparatively large relative to that of the general population, travellers should always exercise modesty and caution in their financial dealings in India to reduce the chance of being a target for robbery or other serious crime. U.S. citizens should also always practice good personal security and situational awareness. Be aware of your surroundings (including local customs and etiquette) and keep a low profile. Monitor local news reports, vary your routes and times in carrying out daily activities, and consider the level of security present when you visit public places, including religious sites, and when choosing hotels, restaurants, and entertainment and recreation venues.

TERRORISM:

Hyderabad is rated a HIGH for transnational and indigenous terrorism by the Department of State. India, as a whole, continues to experience terrorist and insurgent activities which may affect U.S. citizens directly and/or indirectly. Anti-Western terrorist groups, some on the U.S. government's list of foreign terrorist organizations, are active in India, including Islamist extremist groups.

As recently as February 21, 2013, Hyderabad experienced a deadly terrorist attack in the Dilsukhnagar area of the city. Two bombs detonated minutes apart killing 18 and injuring more than a 100.

On May 18, 2007, the [Mecca Masjid bombing](#) occurred inside the Mecca Masjid mosque located near the Old City area in Hyderabad. Fourteen people were killed in the immediate aftermath.

On August 25, 2007, Hyderabad experienced a terrorist attack which killed 42 people. Known locally as [the Hyderabad Bombings](#), two bombs were detonated minutes apart. One bomb exploded in a crowded local amusement park and a second bomb exploded almost simultaneously at a popular restaurant three miles away. Hours and days after the attack, the police discovered and defused 19 additional IEDs across Hyderabad at bus stops, cinemas, road junctions and bridges. Attacks have taken place during the busy evening hours in markets and other crowded places, but could occur at any time.

Past attacks have targeted public places, such as hotels, trains, train stations, markets, cinemas, mosques, and restaurants in large urban areas. Although frequented by Westerners, none of these attacks appear to be targeting Westerners, western interests, or tourists.

DEMONSTRATIONS:

Demonstrations/Protests/Celebrations in Hyderabad are commonplace and generally non-aggressive, but the potential exists for them to turn violent. Demonstrations and general strikes, or "bandh," often cause inconvenience. Large religious ceremonies that attract hundreds of thousands of people can result in dangerous crowd control situations. Local demonstrations can begin spontaneously and escalate with little warning disrupting transportation systems and city services and posing risks to travelers. In response to such events, Indian authorities occasionally impose curfews and/or restrict travel. You are urged to avoid demonstrations and rallies as they have the potential for violence, especially immediately preceding and following elections and religious festivals (particularly when Hindu and Muslim festivals coincide). Tensions between castes and religious groups can also result in disruptions and violence.

Avoid demonstrations, large crowds, or substantial gatherings of people and don't attempt to drive through them. It is strongly recommended that you avoid participation in demonstrations.

TRAFFIC SAFETY AND ROAD CONDITIONS:

Travel by road in Hyderabad can be difficult and at times can be hazardous. India often leads the world in traffic-related deaths; in the most recent World Health Organization (WHO) [Global Status Report on Road Safety](#), India was granted the dubious distinction as having the worst road traffic accident rate worldwide with over 130,000 deaths annually. Road deaths increased by nearly 40% between 2003 and 2008 in India.

Travelers should remember to keep car doors locked at all times and use seatbelts in both rear and front seats where available. Outside major traffic areas, main roads and other roads are often poorly maintained and congested. Even main roads frequently have only two lanes with poor visibility and inadequate warning markers. On the few divided highways one can expect to meet local transportation traveling in the wrong direction, often without lights. Heavy traffic is the norm and includes (but is not limited to) overloaded trucks and buses, scooters, pedestrians, bullock and camel carts, horse or elephant riders en route to weddings, bicycles, and free-roaming livestock.

In order to drive in India, you must have either a valid Indian driver's license or a valid international driver's license. Because of difficult road and traffic conditions, and the limitations of driving licenses, you may wish to consider hiring a local driver.

Exercise extreme caution when crossing streets, even in marked pedestrian areas. It is important to be alert while crossing streets and intersections, especially after dark as traffic laws are rarely followed. On Indian roads, the safest policy is to always assume that other drivers will not respond to a traffic situation in the same way you would in the United States. Buses and trucks often run red lights and merge directly into traffic at yield points and traffic circles.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION:

Public transportation in the form of buses, trains, and taxis are authorized at post although alternate, more secure, forms of travel are recommended. While there are many forms of public transportation in Hyderabad, many are prone to safety and security problems. The train system can be dangerous due to an extremely large volume of users. City buses can also be crowded and pose problems as pickpockets work the most crowded, busiest routes; plus, bus routes are not easily navigable. The best recommendation is to hire reliable and registered taxi's (radio taxis) and avoid traveling alone, especially at night.

Use taxis from hotels, restaurants, and at airports rather than hailing them on the street. If you encounter threatening situations, call "100" for police assistance. Auto rickshaws or tuk-tuks are not prohibited, though their very nature provides less safety, security, and accountability than established taxi lines or ride-sharing services such as Uber and Ola. It is highly recommended that you negotiate a tuk-tuk fare before beginning your trip.

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

The U.S. Embassy India restricts travel to certain parts of India for safety and security reasons for all U.S. government personnel. Certain parts of India are designated as "restricted / protected areas" (RAP/PAP) by the Government of India. Depending on the exact location of proposed travel a restricted area or protected area permit (RAP/PAP) from the Government of India (GOI) may also be required. One location is Jammu & Kashmir. The procurement of all required permits is the responsibility of the traveller.

PERSONAL SECURITY MEASURES:

There is no evidence to suggest that criminals specifically target American citizens -- most victims are merely targets of opportunity or in the wrong place at the wrong time. However, pickpockets naturally seek lucrative targets, and foreigners in general are perceived as such. Pickpockets and other petty thieves are particularly active in public markets, tourist attractions, and crowded streets. Wearing expensive jewelry, watches, and displays of large amounts of cash can draw unwanted attention. Limit the amount of personal belongings you carry with you. Carry your money in your front pockets and limit the amount of credit cards you carry on your person.

Of course no place is 100% safe, so it is important to keep in mind that resisting or challenging an armed assailant may prompt a more violent response. Statistically, those who offer no resistance when confronted by armed assailants are usually not hurt. It is highly recommended that you do not venture out alone and particularly not to the less affluent parts of the city. If you wish to visit restaurants/nightspots in other less frequented areas of the city, go with a group or in pairs -- there is some safety in numbers. Always remember to maintain your level of awareness and be cognizant of events around you. Furthermore, be mindful of your alcohol consumption so you are able to maintain an acceptable degree of alertness and situational awareness.

As with any "big city" environment, it is fundamental that all personnel take responsibility for their own actions and always remain conscious of your surroundings. Maintain a high level of self-awareness, watch for suspicious activity, vary your routes and times, and DON'T BECOME PREDICTABLE. This guidance applies whether on foot or in your vehicle.

HOTEL SECURITY:

Never give out your key and keep your location, especially your hotel room number, confidential. Always make sure you use the room's door chain, deadlock, and viewer while inside your room. Make sure you not only lock your valuables in the hotel safe but also any important travel documents and passports. Watch for suspicious activity as you enter the hotel and your room. If you have visitors, especially ones that you have just met, have them sign in at the hotel and show their identification. Do not open hotel room doors for unidentified or unexpected visitors -- ask for identification first. Develop a plan or emergency course of action should a crisis situation develop such as a fire or demonstration occurs in/around your hotel. Be aware that it is likely that criminals are drawn to hotel areas due to the large number of foreign tourists whom they view as affluent and easy targets.

HEALTH CONCERNS:

Hyderabad does have health concerns. One should take normal precautions with regard to drinking tap water and eating fruits, vegetables and salads. Individuals may also react adversely to increased levels of pollution. Short-term TDY travelers to Hyderabad carry an additional risk because of the lack of time to acclimatize and may require some time to adjust to the food, dehydration, and sleep patterns which all can adversely affect blood pressure, digestion, stress and energy levels.

Outbreaks of mosquito-borne viral diseases such as Dengue fever and the Chikungunya virus occur in various parts of Hyderabad each year. Outbreaks of Avian Influenza (H5N1 virus) occur intermittently in eastern India. Tuberculosis is an increasingly serious health concern in India.

The quality of medical care in India varies considerably, Hyderabad is no different. Despite reports of antibiotic-resistant bacteria in hospitals, in general travelers should not delay or avoid treatment for urgent or emergent medical situations. Contact American Citizen Services (ACS) immediately if you have any health concerns.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

For any kind of security related problem or emergency contact your office supervisor, sponsor, or the ACS.

Always be proactive in contacting your supervisor if there is a city crisis or incident.

1. Consulate Post One: 90001-01745
2. Hyderabad Police Emergency: 100
3. Fire Department: 101
4. Ambulance: 108
5. American Citizen Services: +91040-4033 8300

DIALING INSTRUCTION FOR HYDERABAD:

| | |
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| Calling from HYD Cell Phone to HYD Cell Phone: (Dial +91 or just dial the 10 digit mobile number) | +91 XXXXX - XXXXX |
| Calling from HYD Cell Phone to HYD Landline Phone: | +91 40 XXXX - XXXX |
| Calling from HYD Landline to HYD Cell Phone: (Dial 10 digit mobile number) | XXXXX - XXXXX |
| Calling from US Cell in HYD to HYD Cell Phone: | + 0091 XXXXX -XXXXX |
| Calling from US Cell in HYD to HYD Landline Phone: | +009140 XXXX - XXXX |
| Calling from US Cell to US cell in HYD: | (area code) + XXX - XXXX |
| Calling from U.S. to HYD Landline Phone: | +009140 XXXX - XXXX |
| Calling from U.S. to HYD Cell Phone: | +0091 XXXXX - XXXXX |

Ref(s):

Travel.State.gov:

India Country Specific Information OSAC Crime Report :
<https://www.osac.gov/Pages/ContentReportDetails.aspx?cid=23715>

Hyderabad homepage consolidates many unclassified USG reports <https://www.osac.gov/pages/CountryHome.aspx?CatalogLocationId=354>

Official DOS clearinghouse for international travel information, organized & searchable by country

Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)

<https://step.state.gov>

Restricted/Protected Areas:

<https://boi.gov.in/content/restricted-protected-area>

SHE Teams:

<http://sheteamhydpolice.telangana.gov.in/contact.html>

<http://www.hyderabadpolice.gov.in/SheTeams.html>

Consulate General Hyderabad social media platforms:

<https://www.instagram.com/uscghyderabad>

<https://twitter.com/USAndHyderabad>

<https://twitter.com/uscghyderabad>

<https://in.usembassy.gov/hyderabad>

<https://www.facebook.com/usconsulategeneralhyderabad>

Emergency Contact: American Citizen Services (ACS)

Email: HydACS@state.gov

Non-Chief of Mission Security Briefing Acknowledgement Form

U.S. Consulate General Hyderabad, India

SECURITY BRIEFING

I (signee) acknowledge that I have read the briefing on the date indicated below at which the following topics were covered:

- Crime
- Terrorism
- Demonstrations
- Traffic Safety
- Public Transportation
- Personal Security Measures
- Travel Restrictions
- Hotel Security
- Health Concerns
- Dialing Instructions
- Emergency Phone Numbers
- Contact Responsibilities during an Incident/Crisis

Printed Name

Date

Signature

Agency/Bureau/Office/Affiliation

UNCLASSIFIED