

# It's a Family Affair

The first visas issued by the new U.S. Consulate General in Hyderabad were given to the family of Salauddin Khan on March 4. The visas allowed the Khans to visit the United States for business or pleasure. The Khans say they are looking forward to visiting New York, Atlantic City, New Jersey and Las Vegas, Nevada. It was a milestone for those who had worked to establish a U.S. diplomatic facility in the Andhra Pradesh capital for years—even before President George W. Bush, during his 2006 visit, announced the U.S. commitment to open a consulate general in Hyderabad.

CORNELIS M. KEUR



Among those on hand to wish the Khans well and celebrate the milestone was Consul General Cornelis M. Keur. "Although the Consulate General has been operating since my arrival in July 2008, the opening of our consular section was delayed until the completion of the Paigah Palace renovation project," he says. "My colleagues and I are pleased that we are finally able to provide consular services to Indian and

*From left: Mark Leoni, consular section chief at the Hyderabad Consulate, Salauddin Khan and Fredric Stern, the vice consul. Consulate staff are in the background.*

American citizens residing in Andhra Pradesh."

In the first week of operations, 23 visas were issued and by mid-March the number was up to 275. The Consulate General has scheduled appointments to permit testing systems and training of personnel, but expects to interview 400 people per day by the end of April.

The Consulate General is operating from temporary quarters at the Paigah Palace until a permanent building is constructed. Although the formal ceremony marking the opening at the Paigah Palace facility took place last October, renovation, refurbishing and security checks had to be completed before it was ready for the public.

—L.K.L.

---

**No more traveling to get a travel visa. Andhra Pradesh residents are now receiving U.S. visas close to home, in Hyderabad.**

---

For more information:  
<http://hyderabad.usconsulate.gov/>



D. RAVINDER REDDY