

New Consulate General in

Hyderabad

To encourage more travel and more contact between our people, the United States intends to open a new consulate in Hyderabad," President George W. Bush said during his visit to India in March 2006. His promise came to fruition on October 24 with the opening of the new Consulate General in the capital of Andhra Pradesh.

Temporarily housed at the Paigah Palace, the consular section will begin operations in mid-December. However, visa applicants would need to continue applying at the Chennai Consulate General until full services are provided in Hyderabad.

"President George W. Bush is a great friend and admirer of India. He has understood from the beginning of his administration the importance of the relationship between our two great democracies, based as it is on shared values and many common interests," U.S. Ambassador to India David C. Mulford said at the ceremonial opening. "The

president has also been able to envision the impact that this relationship can have on the world of the future. As a result we have seen enormous growth in the breadth and scope of U.S.-India relations."

Watched by 300 guests, including officials of the state government, members of Parliament, representatives of academic, scientific and civil society organizations, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy joined Ambassador Mulford in planting a tree as part of the ceremony. Hyderabad Consul General Cornelis Keur was the master of ceremonies. The U.S. flag was hoisted by representatives of the U.S. and Indian armed forces, and the Indian Army Ordnance Band played the national anthems of both countries.

The consulate's permanent facility will come up near Hyderabad's Indian School of Business and land has been acquired for this purpose.

—D.K.

<http://hyderabad.usconsulate.gov/>



Photographs by D. RAVINDER REDDY

Above: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, Jeannie Mulford and U.S. Ambassador David C. Mulford at the opening ceremony. Below: Ambassador Mulford speaks at the opening ceremony at the Paigah Palace.

