

CONSULAR EXCHANGE RATE CHANGED IN FAVOR OF DOLLAR

Effective Friday, October 24, 2008, all United States Consular Sections in India have adjusted the consular exchange rate from Rs. 50 to the dollar to Rs. 54 to the dollar.

This rate change is effective for all rupee-denominated costs of applying for visas and passports, including the nonimmigrant visa application fee paid at HDFC bank branches prior to the scheduling of visa appointments.

The application fee for a nonimmigrant visa is now Rs. 7074 (equivalent to USD \$131). The U.S. Embassy in New Delhi informs that receipts issued by HDFC Bank prior to October 24, 2008 that reflect a payment of Rs. 6,550 will be honored and there will be no need for a supplemental payment.

SEVIS FEES INCREASED

Student and Exchange Visitor Program acts as the bridge for varied government organizations that have an interest in information on foreign students. SEVP uses web-based technology, the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), to track and monitor schools and programs, students, exchange visitors and their dependents throughout the duration of approved participation within the U.S. education system.

Effective October 27, 2008, new fees for students, exchange visitors and schools are as follows:

Foreign citizens applying to become F or M students or J exchange visitors will pay the following SEVIS I-901 fee amounts:

I-901 F-1/M-1 visa applicants \$200

I-901 J-1 visa applicants \$180