

PRESS RELEASE

Passport Seva Divas and Passport Officers' Conference 2019

As in previous years, the Ministry of External Affairs [**MEA**] celebrated Passport Seva Divas [**PSD**] on 24 June, 2019, in commemoration of the enactment of the Passports Act on 24 June, 1967. The Annual Passport Officers' Conference [**POC**] was held on 24-25 June, 2019 in conjunction with the celebration of **PSD**. Hon'ble External Affairs Minister [**EAM**] Dr. S. Jaishankar presided over the high-level segment of these events on 24 June, 2019. Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs Shri V.Muraleedharan met with the Passport Officers on the eve of **POC**.

In his Keynote Address, **EAM** said that the last five years of passport services delivered by the Ministry constituted a "Passport Revolution". He added that the mandate of **MEA** is to ensure good governance and a transparent, efficient, timely, effective, reliable, assured, and an accountable public service delivery system. He assured that issue of passports would definitely remain a core area for the Ministry. He thanked Hon'ble Minister of Communications, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasadji and the Department of Posts under his charge for enabling **MEA** in opening of 412 Post Office Passport Seva Kendras since 2017. Together with the 93 Passport Seva Kendras which are already functional, this has taken the total number of Passport Seva Kendras in the country to 505 today. **EAM** said that the partnership between **MEA** and Department of Posts is indeed a wonderful example of the best practices in citizen-centric governance.

EAM felicitated all the Passport Issuing Authorities in India and abroad for striving to ensure transparent and efficient passport delivery systems for the benefit of our citizens. He called upon all of them to continue striving towards providing good governance and putting in place systems for proper implementation of the policies of the Government, and thereby strengthen the confidence of the people. The full texts of **EAM's** Address and his message on the occasion of **PSD** are at **MEA's** website: www.mea.gov.in.

In recognition of the outstanding services rendered to citizens, **EAM** gave away Passport Seva Puraskars to the best performing Passport Offices, the officials of the Department of Posts and the personnel of the Service Provider.

As Police verification is an important component of passport issuance, awards were also given to the Police Departments of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Telangana in recognition of their efforts in providing speedy police clearances.

The annual Passport Officers' Conference provided a useful opportunity to take stock of our passport delivery systems, deliberate upon an array of issues both at the policy end as well as in terms of implementation through a vast and expanding network of Passport Seva Kendras and Post Office Passport Seva Kendras: exchange experiences and best practices; and come up with action points and recommendations to further improve our performance.

New Delhi
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