

PRESS RELEASE

All Women PSK

Minister of State for External Affairs Shri V. Muraleedharan unveiled two of the Passport Seva Kendras, to be transformed as **“All Women PSK”**, one at RK Puram, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi and another at Tripunithura, Cochin, Kerala on the occasion of International Women’s Day, 8th March 2021 under the flagship Passport Seva Programme of the Ministry.

The Passport Seva Programme has been an ambitious programme of Government of India and has emerged as one of the most successful programme delivering passport related services to the citizens in India and Indian citizens living outside the country. The programme has effectively delivered to the vision of Digital India with the successful establishment of :

- i. Digital ecosystem among all stakeholders offering passport related services to the citizens in an ubiquitous manner at their doorstep
- ii. Ensuring smooth governance and ease of services
- iii. Digitally empowering the citizens

The Ministry since May 2014 has taken several steps to bring about quantitative and qualitative improvements in delivering passport services to the citizens not only in India but also outside India. As a result, 93 Passport Seva Kendras and 426 Post Office Passport Seva Kendras a part from existing 36 Passport Offices have been made operational across the country. In addition to this, the programme has also been extended to 190 Indian Mission/Posts abroad and thus creating a global footprint. The steps taken by the Ministry has

helped deliver passport services to the citizens in a timely, transparent, more accessible, reliable manner and in a comfortable environment through streamlined processes, committed, trained and motivated workforce. Steps have also been taken for simplification of passport processes, manuals and rules.

In addition to the above, the Ministry has taken initiative to empower women as part of Passport Seva Programme. A total of **1670** women employees are deployed in the Passport Seva Programme. Through the Passport Seva Programme, passports have been issued to more than **2.76 crores** applicants till date. In the **last three years 1.03 crores passports** have been issued to **women applicants, amounting to 35% of total applicants.**

The Minister, Shri Muraleedharan expressed that the Government is continuously working to create a balance between both men and women in various spheres of lives, be it professional or personal. He underlined that the country under the leadership of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, is marching ahead towards a progressive, technologically advanced and socially diverse community and the achievements of women were evident from the presence of august gathering on 8th March 2021 representing leaders and future leaders among women including from the Indian Air Force, Railway, Health Sectors, media & entertainment etc. The dignitaries have been designated as the **Friends** of Passport Seva Programme to create awareness about the ease with which the passport can be obtained.

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