

Liberalization of Police Verification procedure for passport issuance and launches Mobile App to cut delays in submission of Police Verification Report

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1. Police Verification (PV) has been an integral part of Passport issuance process since its inception. The modalities of police verification have undergone various changes from time to time, whereas the principles have remained the same i.e., ascertaining the applicant's identity, citizenship and absence of criminal antecedents. Under the Passport Seva Project, the Ministry of External Affairs has streamlined Police Verification System for passport issuance by digitally integrating 685 of 731 Police Districts in the country. This has led to overall reduction in the number of days taken to complete police verification process to 34 days in 2015, as against 42 days in 2014 and 49 days in 2013.
2. In order to further improve and liberalize Police Verification procedure for passport issuance, the Government has decided that henceforth normal passport applications of all first time applicants furnishing Aadhaar, Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC), Permanent Account Number (PAN) Card and an affidavit in the format of Annexure-I will be processed on Post-Police Verification basis, enabling faster issue of passport, without payment of any additional fees, subject to successful online validation of Aadhaar number. In addition, EPIC and PAN card may also be validated, if required, from the respective databases.
3. In addition to the above, Ministry has also launched mPassport Police App for speedy submission of Police Verification Report(PVR). The App would facilitate the field level verification officers to directly capture the PV report into the system digitally. With the launch of this App, the need to download and print the physical Personal Particulars Form and questionnaire would no longer be required resulting in paperless end-to-end digital flow of the PV process, further reducing the time required for completion of PVR, within the desired time limit of 21 days.
4. The issuance of passports and travel documents is the most visible citizen-centric service rendered by the Ministry of External Affairs. During the year 2015, 1.20 crore passport and related services were rendered by Passport Offices in India and the Indian Missions/Posts abroad. There is an increase of 21% over 2014 in the number of services rendered. As on 31st December 2015, approximately 6.33 crores Indians held valid passports.

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