

## PUBLIC ADVISORY

### PHASING OUT OF HANDWRITTEN PASSPORTS

Indian citizens living in Nigeria and concurrently accredited countries Benin, Cameroon and Chad, are advised to urgently replace their handwritten passports with machine-readable passports. **A deadline of the 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2015 for globally phasing out of all non-Machine Readable Passports (MRPs) was set up by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).** Thereafter, foreign Governments may deny Visa or entry to any person travelling on a non-Machine Readable Passport.

2. The Government of India has been issuing Machine Readable Passports since 2001. The Passports, however, issued before 2001 and particularly those issued during mid 1990s with a validity of 20 years will fall in the category of non-MRPs.

**3. Indian citizens residing in Nigeria and concurrently accredited countries Benin, Cameroon and Chad holding such passports with validity beyond 24<sup>th</sup> November 2015 are advised to apply for re-issue of their passports** immediately in order to avoid any inconvenience in obtaining valid visa or international travel. Needless to mention, travel on ICAO- compliant machine readable passports will facilitate hassle-free and safe journey.

4. All Passport Issuing Authorities have instituted a simple and fast-track procedure for renewal of passports. For more details related to passport services, website –[www.passportindia.gov.in](http://www.passportindia.gov.in) may be accessed.

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