

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**(Phasing out of Non-Machine Readable Passports)**

The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) has set a deadline of the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2015 for globally phasing out all non-Machine Readable Passports (MRPs). From 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015 onwards, foreign Governments may deny visa or entry to any person travelling with a non-MRP passport.

All handwritten passports with pasted photos earlier issued by Government of India are considered non-MRP passports. All 20-year validity passports will also fall in this category. The Government started issuing MRP passports since 2001. All new Indian passports are ICAO-compliant MRP passports.

Indian citizens residing in India and abroad and holding handwritten passports as well as 20-year passports with validity beyond the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2015, should, therefore, apply for re-issue of passports and obtain MRP passports well before the deadline in order to avoid any inconvenience in obtaining foreign visa or immigration problem.

It may also be noted that any changes in the particulars inside the laminated pages will henceforth require re-issue of passport. Holders of short validity passports may also apply for issue of a new passport upon expiry of the validity of the existing passport.