Hon. Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi with President of Seychelles Mr. Danny Antoine Rollen Faure

Consul General, Mr. Dinesh Bhatia and Consul (Commerce), Mr. Saifullah Khan with 36 officers from Audit, Accounts and Finance wings of various Govt. of India Ministries visiting Toronto for training at Seneca College
Consul General, Mr. Dinesh Bhatia met and interacted with 36 visiting officers from Audit, Accounts and Finance wings of various Govt. of India Ministries at Consulate General of India, Toronto on June 25, 2018. These officers were in Toronto for a programme at Seneca College on Budgeting, Accounting and Financial Management as a part of their training in National Institute of Financial Management, Faridabad under the Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India.

Consul General gave them an overview about Canada; the governance system, the economy, the quality of life and the way day-to-day life functions here. He also addressed their queries about Canada and shared experiences from his tenure in the country.

The second edition of ‘Bharat Ko Janiye’ quiz is being organised by the Ministry of External Affairs, with an expected participation of 1,00,000 overseas Indians (two categories PIOs & NRIs) will be held in 2018-19. Register Online now at (https://www.bharatkojaniye.in/home/register).

Consulate General of India, Toronto will select the top three contenders in each category (NRI &PIO) by conducting first round of quiz competition between July 19-21, 2018. Top 10 finalists in each category (PIO & NRI) will be selected on the basis of marks secured in second round (conducted online) and they will be invited to participate in the third round (Semi-final) and fourth round (Final round) in New Delhi. All participants, who are invited for onsite round would attend the workshop in New Delhi and participate in the Bharat ko Janiye Yatra, a 15 day tour of India. The Government of India will bear international airfare and all expenses including hotel accommodation (4 Star Hotel on twin sharing basis), local transportation (by AC vehicle on twin sharing basis), boarding and lodging for Quiz participants during their stay in India, airport-hotel-airport transfer during arrival and departure from India.
Mr. Danny Antoine Rollen Faure, President of the Republic of Seychelles visited India from 22 – 27 June, 2018. During the visit he met with Hon. President of India, Mr. Ram Nath Kovind and Hon. Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi. A total of 6 MOUs were signed between the two countries.

Overseeing the exchange of Agreements, Mr. Modi said, "Since the independence of Seychelles in June 1976, there have been special relations between both our democratic countries. Today, India and Seychelles are key strategic partners. We both support the core values of democracy and equally share geo-strategic vision of maintaining peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean. India and Seychelles are linked together with the Indian Ocean. Sustainable development of ocean economy in a secured maritime environment is very crucial for prosperity of our citizens. We agree to work together on the Assumption Island project keeping in mind each other's interest in this regard. We are widely collaborating to undertake hydrography surveys to improve the availability of navigation charts. Contribution of the Indian community in the economy of Seychelles is a matter of pride for us. Shared culture between our two countries and the people here is a matter of pride for us and it provides many possibilities to further intensify our relations.”

Register Now for the 11th World Hindi Conference in Mauritius

Know Your India Programme

*Know India Programme* (KIP) of the Ministry of External Affairs is a three-week orientation programme for diaspora youth conducted with a view to promote awareness on different facets of life in India and the progress made by the country in various fields e.g. economic, industrial, education, science & technology, communication & information Technology, culture. KIP has now announced its 47th - 52nd editions with the partnering states of Tamil Nadu, Manipur & Mizoram, Karnataka, Gujarat, Bihar & Jharkhand and Daman & Diu and Maharashtra. Participants of 49th to 52th KIP will also have the opportunity to participate in PBD Convention, 2019, Kumbh Snan (The Holy Ganges Bath) and the Republic Day Parade in January 2019. Participants of 49 th to 52th KIP will also have the opportunity to participate in PBD Convention, 2019, Kumbh Snan (The Holy Ganges Bath) and the Republic Day Parade in January 2019.
MESSAGE

It is a matter of great pleasure for me to felicitate all our Passport Issuing Authorities in India and abroad on the occasion of the Passport Seva Divas. The Ministry of External Affairs and its subordinate office - the Central Passport Organization - are celebrating as well as marking the Day with renewed commitment to provide better passport and other related services in a timely, assured, transparent and efficient manner.

The year 2017 will be remembered for the commendable growth of nearly 19% in passport and other related services. The monthly submission of applications crossed the one million mark for the first time. The Ministry took significant steps to build efficient passport delivery systems. Not only did the work of simplifying the Passport Rules continued with the same vigour but also we endeavoured and worked towards taking passport services closer to the doorsteps of our citizens.

We have 93 Passport Seva Kendras (PSK) today serving our populace. We strengthened our partnership with the Department of Posts to render passport related services by setting-up Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSK) in the Head Post Offices and other Post Offices. We have announced so far the establishment of 289 POPSK in three phases - 86 in Phase-I, 165 in Phase-II and 38 in Phase-III to extend passport services to our citizens on a bigger scale and to ensure wider area coverage. It is matter of immense satisfaction that 81 POPSK identified in Phase-I, 130 POPSK identified in Phase-II and 2 POPSK identified in Phase-III have become functional. The Ministry is working closely with the Department of Posts for early operationalization of the remaining POPSK. More than 12,000 appointments are being released for passport applicants at these POPSK to enable them to complete the requisite formalities necessary prior to the issue of the passport. Our efforts have helped in reducing the distance required to travel by an applicant to get a passport.

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We have eased the process of getting a passport under the 'Tatkaal' Scheme by removing the requirement of submitting a Verification Certificate. We have made excellent use of 'Digital India' to provide a mobile platform for submission of passport applications. The process of Police Verification has been simplified and made citizen-friendly. We are working towards integrating our Embassies and Consulates into the Passport Seva Project. We are working towards providing an effective, transparent and accountable service delivery system in the years ahead.

I take this opportunity to request you to commit yourself towards the core principle of our Government: 'Saaf Niyat; Sahi Vikaas'. Let us re-dedicate ourselves to work towards providing good governance and pledge to put in place more inclusive and robust mechanisms to achieve our objective of building a new India.

(Sushma Swaraj)

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