

## **P Chidambaram inaugurates modern immigration project**

Union Home Minister P Chidambaram today inaugurated a modern immigration and visa registration project office aimed at bringing complete data of foreigners under one platform.

Chidambaram, during the event here, said the project "will help in bringing more efficiency in immigration, visa and online registration of foreigners, security and other services".

The minister also stressed on the need for capacity building and periodic training and constant upgradation of software and hardware equipment to maintain quality of the project, an official statement of the Home Ministry said.

The project envisages facilitation services to the travellers, including online application forms, 24X7 online channel, phone support for grievance redressal and e-mail/SMS support for dissemination of information, application status and feedback.

Upon activation, the project called 'Immigration Visa and Foreigners Registration and Tracking (IVFRT)' will result in "online registration of foreigners at the time of grant of visa and automated updation of the particulars of the foreigners at entry and exit points".

Other salient features of the project are authentication of traveller's identity at the Missions, Immigration Check Posts and Foreigners Registration Offices through use of document scanners and biometrics, availability of a centralised system for sharing information across the agencies concerned about foreign travellers, improved tracking of foreigners by integrating and sharing information captured during visa issuance.

It will also help in software aided passenger profiling for identifying risky travellers at Missions, ICPs and FRROs, and generation of automated alerts about overstay and failure to register with concerned Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) or FRO.

Besides the other benefits are convergence and integration with other initiatives such as e-passports, e-migration and crime and criminal tracking network for expeditious and informed decision making.

The new system has already been implemented and operationalised at 60 Indian Missions such as in the UK, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Netherlands, Germany, New Zealand, Finland and Estonia among others.

Remaining missions, according to the statement, would be covered during financial years 2012-13 and 2013-14.

*(Economic Times)*