

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2952
ANSWERED ON 13.08.2026

ROLLOUT OF E-PASSPORT

2952. DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of the nationwide rollout and mass issuance of advanced chipbased e-passports for Indian citizens;
- (b) the details of radio-frequency identification (RFID) technology and biometric data encryption protocols integrated into these new booklets;
- (c) Whether Government has upgraded the immigration infrastructure at all major international airports to process these e-passports rapidly;
- (d) the total financial outlays allocated to modernize the sovereign security printing presses for manufacturing these documents; and
- (e) the measures implemented to prevent physical and digital forgery?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

- (a) Currently all Regional Passport Offices (RPOs)/ Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs)/ Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs) and all Indian Missions/Posts abroad are issuing e-Passports. The roll out of e-Passport was completed at all the RPOs/PSKs/POPSKs in May 2025 and at all the Indian Missions/Posts abroad in October 2025. A total of 1,73,16,144 (One Crore Seventy Three Lakh Sixteen Thousand One hundred and Forty Four only) e-Passports have been issued in India and abroad upto 30 July 2026.
- (b) The ePassport is a combined paper and electronic passport, with an embedded Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) chip and antenna embedded in an inlay. The key benefit of the e-Passport lies in its enhanced capability to preserve the integrity of its data by having the data printed on the passport as well as digitally stored on the chip, thereby making it harder to forge. In addition, the security of the ePassport is augmented through the Public Key Infrastructure (PKI), which is the foundation for safeguarding sensitive information, and confirming the integrity and origin of personal and biometric data stored on the chip within the ePassport.
- (c) The authentication of e-chip passport and its integration with the IVFRT (Immigration, Visa, Foreigners' Registration & Tracking) application for utilization across the Immigration Posts at all the International Airports in India is under process.

- (d) Modernization of the India Security Press (ISP) Nashik for manufacturing of ePassport booklets is an ongoing process. The Dept. of Economic Affairs (DEA) under Ministry of Finance (MoF) retains the ultimate administrative process and policy control over ISP Nashik.
- (e) In order to prevent digital and physical forgery, updated security features are incorporated in the ePassport along with personalization of data as per the recommendations of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).
