Video conferencing to speed up passport process

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

Coimbatore, Nov 13: Coimbatoreans, who have applied for passports and been waiting for renewal for a long time, henceforth, need not go to Chennai to know about the cause for the delay, defects and exact position of their passport. They can get all these details sitting at the district passport cell at the Collectorate here, by using the 'video conferencing services' of the National Information Centre (NIC).

A passport adalat on video conference, first of its kind in passport offices in the country, was inaugurated by district Collector Neeraj Mittal at the NIC in the Collectorate on Monday. The adalat had two sessions – the first to sensitise the district passport cell officials and update them with the latest position of scrutiny of applications and the second to interview the applicants who had been called to air their pending grievances and get them redressed.

District Collector Neeraj Mittal and those who have applied for passport at the video conference at the district passport cell in the Coimbatore Collectorate on Monday - Express photo

As many as 17 applicants were called for redressing their long-pending grievances through video conference in the presence of Neeraj Mittal, District Informative Officer R Ravikumar and district PRO S Kannadasan.

Chennai Regional Passport Officer Sumathi Ravichandran disposed off eight applications positively responding that their passports would be dispatched from Chennai to Coimbatore on Tuesday.

The passport seekers and the district Collector expressed their satisfaction over the functioning of the new facility.

While transmitting information to Neeraj Mittal, Sumathi Ravichandran happily said the number of applications received from Coimbatore is the highest among the districts. As many as 14,000 persons have applied for passport, she said.