

PRESS RELEASE

EPFO, Head Office, New Delhi

- **Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar inaugurated 66th foundation day celebrations of EPFO in New Delhi**
- **117 District Offices of EPFO to be digitally connected to facilitate more convenience of claim submission.**

66th foundation day of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) was celebrated on 1st November 2018. The day marked the milestone of roll out of the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme on 1st November 1952 - the first social security scheme under the EPF Act.

Speaking on the occasion at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra, New Delhi, the Chief Guest Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Labour & Employment, Government of India appreciated the efforts of EPFO in pushing e-governance culture in citizen-Government interactions.

On the occasion the Minister also inaugurated that facility of "Claim Receipt Entry" at 117 District Offices of EPFO by integrating them digitally. It will help members to cut down upon long distance travels for claim submission. It will further help in checking the progress online. The Minister also congratulated EPFO in making Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY) a huge success. The registrations under PMRPY has crossed the 1 crore mark, thereby aiding the businesses in extending the umbrella of social security. The minister also appreciated the efforts of EPFO in handling the grievances of its stake holders and desired that efforts in this regard should continue.

Shri Heeralal Samariya, Secretary, Labour & Employment, Govt. of India and the Guest of Honour congratulated the officers who lead innovative and best practices improving service delivery tremendously. He further added that the efforts of EPFO has lead the country in improving the ranking on ease of doing business as it has simplified its interface both with employees and employers.

Shri Sunil Barthwal, Central Provident Fund Commissioner highlighted the initiatives and achievements of EPFO during the last one year. He said that EPFO is committed to work towards extending the reach and quality of Social Security. Digital Connectivity of district offices and facility of online returns of International Workers launched today promises further conveniences. He added that facility of online claim is widely welcomed by the employees and within one year the submission of online claim has increased from less than 5% to more than 50% and soon it will reach to almost 100 percent.

EPFO through its journey of 66 years today is a reliable arm of the Government in social security. Beginning its journey with a few lakh beneficiaries, it now services more than 4.5 crore contributing work force, engaged in around 6 lakh contributing establishments. With 63 lakh pensioners, it is the 21st largest pension fund globally as per Willis Towers Watson report 2017.

Recent e governance initiatives of online coverage of establishments, online grievance redressal and online filing of claims backed by Universal Account Number have generated a huge trust in public service delivery. It is noteworthy that more than 50% claims in EPFO are preferred through online mode, indicating wide acceptance in just one year of its roll out. Additionally, the reduction in administrative charges has reduced the cost of compliance to Employers and improved the "ease of doing business" climate in the country.

The function also marked distribution of awards to best performing EPFO offices in 17 categories which included best performing Zonal Office, Regional Offices and District Offices.

This year, the number of awards has been increased from 9 to 17 by including 3 awards for innovative and best practices and one award each for best performance in KYC seeding, PMRPY enrolment and online claim settlement. A special award was also given to the best performing office in North Eastern Regional this year. To encourage the sports persons of outstanding ability with international recognition, an award to one of the employee for excellence in International Sports was also given.

The best performing offices which were awarded are Noida, Tambaram, Patna, Bharuch, Zonal Office (Chennai & Puducherry), District Office Tirupur, Haldwani, Gurugram, Durgapur, Udupi, Agartala.

The best performing IT team, Portfolio Manager, Exempted trust namely ADC-MIS Team Secunderabad, UTI AMC Ltd and M/s Maihar Cement Employees' Provident Fund Trust respectively were also awarded.