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**INDIA
TODAY**

BLS Intl bags USD 5 mn order from Afghan Embassy

New Delhi, Jun 22 (PTI) Visa outsourcing company BLS International today said it has bagged USD 5 million tender from Afghanistan Embassy to facilitate registration and identification of all Afghan citizens in five Gulf countries.

The countries are United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain and Qatar.

Under the contract, BLS international will open 8 visa application centres to support the Embassy of Afghanistan in Abu Dhabi, UAE, the company said in a statement.

Through these 8 centres, BLS will process around 2 lakh applications for Afghans living in UAE, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain and Qatar.

Based on the registered data maintained by BLS International, the diplomatic mission will issue the E- passports in the next stage.

BLS International Services Ltd Joint Managing Director and Additional Director Shikhar Aggarwal said: "Through our association with the Afghanistan Embassy in UAE, we aim to provide a framework to enable registration and identification for all Afghan citizens residing in the Gulf countries". PTI PRJ JM