

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas-2021

January 8, 2021

In news

16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas to be held on 9th January with the theme “Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat”

Origin of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas(PBD)

- Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is celebrated on 9th January every year to mark the contribution of Overseas Indian community in the development of India.
- It is sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), the Confederation of Indian Industries and the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
- **January 9 was chosen as the day to celebrate this occasion since it was on this day in 1915 that Mahatma Gandhi**, the greatest Pravasi, returned to India from South Africa, led India’s freedom struggle and changed the lives of Indians forever.
- PBD conventions are being held every year since 2003.
- **Since 2015, its format has been revised to celebrate the PBD once every two years and to hold theme-based PBD Conferences during the intervening period** with participation from overseas diaspora experts, policy makers and stakeholders.
- These conventions provide a platform to the overseas Indian community to engage with the government and people of the land of their ancestors for mutually beneficial activities.
- These conventions are also very useful in networking among the overseas Indian community residing in various parts of the world and enable them to share their experiences in various fields.

The 16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas(PBD)-2021

- Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is celebrated **once in every two years** to strengthen the engagement of the overseas Indian community with the Government of India and reconnect them with their roots
- This year PBD Convention will have three segments, starting with the Inaugural Session, when the PBD Convention will be inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India
- The Inaugural session will be followed by the two virtual Plenary sessions where discussions between eminent diaspora experts will be held on themes:
 - Role of Diaspora in Aatmanirbhar Bharat, and
 - Facing Post Covid Challenges – Scenario in Health, Economy, Social and International Relations.
- The first Plenary on Role of Diaspora in Aatmanirbhar Bharat, will feature addresses by External Affairs Minister and Commerce and Industry Minister
- While the second Plenary on Facing Post Covid Challenges – Scenario in Health, Economy, Social and International Relations, will be addressed by Minister of Health and Minister of State for External Affairs.
- Both Plenaries will feature panel discussions inviting eminent diaspora experts
- The finale would be the Valedictory Session where the Hon'ble Rashtrapati will deliver his Valedictory address to mark the occasion of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas.
- The names of the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awardees will also be announced during the Session.
- **This year the Chief Guest PBD will be H.E. Mr. Chandrikapersad Santokhi, Hon'ble President of the Republic of Suriname.**
- The 15th PBD Convention was held from 21 to 23 January 2019 in Varanasi with Uttar Pradesh as the Partner State.

Chief Guests at PBD Conventions

Sr. No.	PBD Year	Name & Position	Country
1	2003	Sir Anerood Jugnauth, Prime Minister	Mauritius
2	2004	Shri Bharrat Jagdeo, President	Guyana
3	2005	Shri J.R. Ajodhia, Vice President	Suriname
4	2006	Shri Ahmed Kathrada, Political Activist and a Contemporay of Nelson Mandela	South Africa
5	2007	Prof. S. Jayakumar, Dy. Prime Minister	Singapore
6	2008	Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister	Mauritius
7	2009	Dr. Ramdien Sardjoe, Vice President	Suriname
8	2010	Dr. Khalid Hameed, Chairman, Alpha Hospital Group	UK
9	2011	Sir Anand Satyanand, Governor General	New Zealand
10	2012	H.E. Ms. Kamla Persad Bissessar	Trinidad and Tobago
11	2013	Mr. Rajkeswur Purryag, President	Mauritius
12	2014	Dato Sri G. Palanivel, Federal Minister for Natural Resources and Environment	Malaysia
13	2015	H.E. Mr. Donald Rabinderanauth Ramotar, President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana	Guyana
14	2017	Dr. Antonio Costa, Prime Minister	Portugal

15	2019	Mr. Pravind Jugnauth, Prime Minister	Mauritius
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The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award

The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award is the highest honour conferred on a Non-Resident Indian, Person of Indian Origin; or an organisation or institution established and run by Non-Resident Indians or Persons of Indian Origin, who have made significant contribution in better understanding of India abroad, support India's causes and concerns in a tangible way, community work abroad, welfare of local Indian community, philanthropic and charitable work, etc.

During the PBD convention, select eminent Indian diaspora members are awarded the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards in the presence of the Hon'ble President of India.