

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, 2022

January 12, 2022

In news— Every year, 9th January is observed as Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) to mark the contribution of the Overseas Indian community in the development of India.

About Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)-

- 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.
- The decision to celebrate PBD was taken by the former Indian Prime Minister, late Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- **Objectives:**
- PBD is celebrated to strengthen the engagement of the overseas Indian community with the Government of India and reconnect them with their roots.
- During the Convention, selected overseas Indians are also honored with the prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award to recognize their contributions to various fields both in India and abroad.
- 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.
- The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has celebrated this day since 2003** from January 07-09 every year.
- **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.