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TODAY'S ANALYSIS

(11 January 2025)

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- **18th PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIWAS**



ADDRESS:

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



PRAVASI BHARTIYA DIWAS



- **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)** is a **biennial celebration** that honors the contributions of **Indians living abroad (the Indian diaspora)** towards the development of India.
- It is observed **every 2 years** on **January 9**, the day when **Mahatma Gandhi** returned to India from **South Africa** in 1915, marking the beginning of a major phase in India's **freedom struggle**.
- The event aims to celebrate the achievements of the diaspora and strengthen their connection with the homeland.

PREVIOUS PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIWAS

17th PBD (2023): Held in **Indore, Madhya Pradesh**, with the theme "**Diaspora: Reliable Partners for India's Progress in Amrit Kaal.**"

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- **Notable Attendees:** Leaders and dignitaries from countries such as **Guyana, Suriname**, and other nations with significant **Indian diaspora** communities attended the event.

SIGNIFICANCE OF INDIAN DIASPORA

• ECONOMIC:

- **Remittances to India:** India receives more than 120 bn USD annually as remittances & it is predicted to be around **120 bn USD in 2023**.
- Flow of business ideas, tacit information & technology into India.
- Migration of less skilled labour from India creates a reduced pressure in India for employment generation.

• POLITICAL:

- Indians hold critical positions of power in many countries like **USA, Mauritius, UK** etc.
- The diaspora has an immense potential to **influence the electoral results** of their host countries.
- The NRI & OCI is a potential lobby for India.

• CULTURAL:

- Presence of diaspora has led to spread of Indian culture & inter racial marital ties thus contributing in the soft power of India.

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ABOUT PBD

- The Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas is observed on **January 9** to strengthen the engagement of the Indian community overseas with the India government and reconnect them with their roots.
 - January 9 was chosen as the day to celebrate PBD as it was on this day in **1915 that Mahatma Gandhi, had returned to India from South Africa.**
- It also marks the **contribution of the Indians living abroad** in the development of the land of their ancestors.
- These conventions are 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.
- PBD conventions were being held every year since 2003.
 - Since 2015, its format has been revised. PBD is now celebrated once in every two years. But this has not been fixed yet.

HISTORY OF PBD

- A **High-Level Committee on Indian Diaspora, headed by LM Singhvi**, had recommended in January 2002 that the government must renew and strengthen linkages of overseas Indians to their place of origin, and with each other.

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- The decision to celebrate PBD was taken by the **former Indian Prime Minister, late Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 2003.**
 - The **1st PBD** was celebrated on **9th January, 2003 in New Delhi.**
- It is organized by the **Ministry of External Affairs**, Government of India, in partnership with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and other stakeholders.

KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE PRAVASI BHARTIYA DIWAS

- **Recognize Diaspora's Contributions:** The event acknowledges and celebrates the impact of the **Indian diaspora** in various sectors, including **business, education, technology, culture, and social work.**
- **Promote India Globally:** It serves as a platform to enhance global awareness about **India**, its culture, economy, and the aspirations of its people.
- **Support India's Interests:** It encourages diaspora members to contribute to **India's development** and to participate in initiatives that promote **India's interests** worldwide.
- **Provide a Platform for Connection:** PBD facilitates interaction between the **Indian diaspora** and the **Indian government**, creating opportunities for networking, collaboration, and partnership.

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KEY EVENTS OF PRAVASI BHARTIYA DIWAS, 2025

- **Day 1 – January 8, 2025: Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas**

- **Focus:** Engaging with **young Indians abroad**, encouraging them to reconnect with their **cultural roots** and contribute to **India's growth**.
- **Inauguration:** **External Affairs Minister, Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports**, and the **Chief Minister of Odisha**.
- **Main Agenda:** The event will focus on the role of **youth** in the Indian diaspora and empower them to take **leadership roles**, fostering ties with India.

- **Day 2 – January 9, 2025: Main Convention**

- **Inaugural Session:** **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will inaugurate the main event, highlighting the theme of the convention and celebrating the global contributions of the **Indian diaspora**.
- **Key Highlights:**
 - **Pravasi Bharatiya Express:** A special tourist train that will take diaspora members to key **cultural** and **religious sites** in India.
 - **Exhibitions:**
 - **Vishwaroop Ram:** An exhibition depicting the story of the **Ramayana** through **art**.

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- **Diaspora's Contribution to Technology:** An exhibition showcasing the contributions of the **Indian diaspora** in the **global technology** sector.
- **Mandvi to Muscat:** A historical exhibition on the migration of **Indians** from **Mandvi** (Gujarat) to **Muscat** (Oman).
- **Heritage of Odisha:** An exhibition celebrating the rich **culture** and **traditions** of **Odisha**.
- **Key Plenary Sessions:**
 - **Diaspora Youth Leadership:** Empowering **youth** to take leadership roles and contribute to a connected world.
 - **Migrant Skills:** Recognizing the skills developed by **migrants** and their role in fostering **cultural exchange**.
 - **Sustainable Development:** Highlighting the diaspora's contributions to **environmentally sustainable** initiatives.
 - **Women's Leadership:** Celebrating the **leadership** roles of **diaspora women** in various fields.
 - **Cultural Connections:** Sharing stories of **belonging** and the preservation of **cultural ties** across generations.

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- **Day 3 – January 10, 2025: Valedictory Session**

- **Closing Address:** **President Droupadi Murmu** will deliver the closing address, marking the conclusion of the 18th edition of PBD.
- **Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards (PBSA):** The awards will be presented by the **President of India** to honor outstanding individuals from the **diaspora** for their exceptional contributions in fields such as:

- **Education**
- **Science & Innovation**
- **Trade & Business**
- **Arts & Culture**
- **Social Work**
- **Public Service**
- **Philanthropy**



PRAVASI BHARATIYA SAMMAN AWARDS

The **PBSA** is a prestigious award presented by the **President of India** during the **PBD convention**. It honors **Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)** and **Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs)**

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who have made exceptional contributions in their respective fields, promoting **India's development** globally. Awardees are recognized for their outstanding achievements in:

- **Education**
- **Science & Innovation**
- **Trade & Business**
- **Arts & Culture**
- **Social Work**
- **Public Service**
- **Philanthropy**



CONCLUSION

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is a significant event that serves to strengthen the bond between **India** and its **diaspora**. It provides a platform for **recognition, engagement, and collaboration**, encouraging **overseas Indians** to contribute to **India's progress**. The **18th edition** in **2025**, with the theme "**Diaspora's Contribution to a Viksit Bharat**," will further emphasize the role of the **Indian diaspora** in shaping **India's future** and building a **developed India**.

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