



PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS (PBD) 2025 - EVENTS

NEWS: The 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention will be held in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**, from **January 8-10, 2025**.

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

Key Highlights of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) 2025

- **Event Details:**
 - The **President of Trinidad and Tobago, Christine Carla Kangaloo**, will be the chief guest.
- **Historical Background:**
 - Pravasi Bharatiya Divas has been celebrated annually since **2003** to honor the contribution of the **Indian diaspora** in India's development.
 - Since **2015**, the format was changed to be held once every two years.
- **Significance of January 9:**
 - The date marks the return of **Mahatma Gandhi** from South Africa to India on **January 9, 1915**, which was pivotal in India's freedom struggle.



DATE & VENUE

Bhubaneswar, Odisha
8-10 January 2025

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Theme and Objectives

- **2025 Theme:** “Diaspora’s Contribution to a Viksit Bharat” (Developed India).
- **Purpose:**
 - To celebrate the bond between India and its overseas Indian community.
 - To highlight the diaspora's role in India’s development and strengthen their ties with their place of origin.

Recommendations of the High-Level Committee on Indian Diaspora

- **Formation:**
 - The committee, headed by **LM Singhvi**, submitted its recommendations in **January 2002**.
- **Key Proposals:**
 - Strengthening linkages between **overseas Indians**, their place of origin, and each other.
 - Establishment of a **Pravasi Bharatiya Bhavan** as a focal point for networking and commemorating diaspora stories.
 - Introduction of a special day to recognize the Indian diaspora, leading to the first PBD in **2003**.

Classification of Overseas Indians

- **Categories:**
 1. **Non-Resident Indians (NRIs):**
 - Indians residing in foreign countries.
 2. **Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs):**
 - This category was abolished in **2015** and merged with OCI.
 - Refers to foreign citizens of Indian origin (excluding nationals from certain countries like Pakistan, China, etc.).
 3. **Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs):**
 - Introduced in **2006**, OCI cards are given to foreign nationals with Indian roots as of **January 26, 1950** or those belonging to territories that became part of India after **August 15, 1947**.

Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (PBSA)

- **Details:**
 - The highest honor conferred on NRIs, PIOs, or their organizations for contributions to India’s global image and local diaspora welfare.
- **2025 Awards:**



- **27 individuals and organizations** will be recognized this year.
- President **Droupadi Murmu** will confer the awards during the **valedictory session**.

Historical Evolution of the Indian Diaspora

- **Early Migration Waves:**
 1. **Girmitiya Era:**
 - During the **19th and early 20th centuries**, Indians were sent as indentured laborers to the **Caribbean islands** and **East Pacific countries** for plantation work following the abolition of slavery.
 2. **Second Wave:**
 - Nearly **20 lakh Indians** migrated to **Singapore and Malaysia** to work on farms.
 3. **Third and Fourth Waves:**
 - Professionals migrated to **Western countries**, while workers moved to **Gulf and West Asian countries** during the oil boom.
- **Current Diaspora Population:**
 - India's diaspora is over **35.4 million**, with:
 - **19.5 million PIOs.**
 - **15.8 million NRIs.**
 - The **US and UAE** host the largest Indian communities, with over **2 million PIOs in the US** and **3.5 million NRIs in the UAE.**

Economic and Diplomatic Contributions

- **Role in India's Economy:**
 - Diaspora members significantly contribute through **remittances** and **investments**.
 - They are integral to promoting Indian **culture** and **economic ties** globally.
- **Diplomatic Importance:**
 - The diaspora strengthens India's relationship with host countries through soft power, advocacy, and economic cooperation.

Challenges and Opportunities

- **Challenges:**
 - Need for policies to ensure the welfare of the diaspora, particularly low-income workers in the Gulf.



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- Addressing cultural integration and identity concerns in foreign countries.
- **Opportunities:**
 - Leveraging the diaspora for **technology transfer, investment opportunities, and nation-building initiatives.**
 - Enhancing **diplomatic influence** through the growing Indian population abroad.

Conclusion

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas celebrates the invaluable contribution of the Indian diaspora while fostering stronger ties with their homeland. With the growing global presence of Indians, initiatives like PBD not only honor their achievements but also explore avenues for collaboration in India's developmental journey.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/upsc-current-affairs/upsc-essentials/knowledge-nugget-of-the-day-pravasi-bharatiya-divas-upsc-indian-diaspora-9762548/>

