

INDIAN DIASPORA: EXPANSION OF INDIAN PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is the Indian community living abroad to the economic well-being of their Indian relatives, as well as to the actual growth of India through investments in Indian companies. Through their remittances, the Indian diaspora a group of people of Indian descent who live outside of India contributes significantly to the Indian economy. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is an occasion to honor and commemorate the accomplishments of the Indian population living abroad, and the government has actively promoted the diasporas involvement in the nation's economic development.

About 48 nations with a combined population of about 2 crore people are home to NRIs. Of these, over 5 lakh non-resident Indians (NRIs) make up the average population of 11 countries and are crucial in determining the political climate and future of those nations. Because they have preserved their cultural history, NRIs share a similar identity. NRIs have improved the economy wherever they have landed. Their success is ascribed to their cultural beliefs, conventional ways of thinking, and educational background. They have contributed significantly to the worldwide information technology revolution, which has enhanced India's reputation overseas. We want to turn brain drain into brain return, Prime Minister Modi reassured the NRIs. The World Bank claims that Indian NRIs are the ones that transfer the most foreign exchange to their homeland. In this way, the study paper that is being presented will highlight the unique contribution that non-resident Indians have made to India's progress.

Keywords: Non-Resident Indian (NRI), Indian Diaspora, Overseas Indians, Global Indian Community, Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Indian Diaspora Day, Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, NRI Community, Indian Diaspora Literature, Indian Diaspora Music, Global Indian Identity, Diasporic Lifestyle, Indian Diaspora Festivals, Indian Diaspora Art.

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Introduction

An important occasion that recognizes the contributions made by the Indian diaspora to their motherland is the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD), which is observed on January 9 every two years. Under the administration of the late prime minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention was initially created in 2003 as a means of identifying and interacting with Indian diaspora living abroad.

It is hosted in various cities to highlight the advancements and diversity of India's many regions. It has changed to a biennial event since 2015, with theme-based conferences taking place in between. This format facilitates more targeted conversations on certain topics of interest and offers chances for networking among the Indian diaspora worldwide.

Pravasi Bhartiya Divas

Every year on January 9th, Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is observed to honor the overseas Indian community's contributions to India's progress. January 9 was selected as the date for this celebration since it was on this day in 1915

that the greatest Pravasi, Mahatma Gandhi, returned to India from South Africa, spearheaded the country's independence movement, and permanently altered the lives of Indians. Since 2003, PBD conventions have been conducted annually. These gatherings give the Indian population living abroad a chance to interact with the government and citizens of their ancestral homeland for activities that will benefit both parties. The Indian community living abroad in different regions of the world can network and exchange experiences in a variety of fields thanks to these conventions.

The 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention will take place in Bengaluru, Karnataka, from January 7–9. The Hon'ble President will present the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards (PBSAs), the highest honor bestowed by the Indian government on Indians living overseas in recognition of their accomplishments both domestically and overseas, at the PBD Convention on January 9, 2017, like in previous years. (PIO), (NRI), or an NRI/PIO Organization/Institute that has made a noteworthy contribution in any of the following areas may receive the awards:

- Better understanding of India abroad;
- tangible support for India's causes and concerns;

strengthening ties between India, the Indian community living abroad, and their home country;

- social and humanitarian causes in India or abroad;
- local Indian community welfare;
- philanthropic and charitable work;
- excellence in one's field or exceptional work that has raised India's standing in that nation;
- excellence in skills that have raised India's standing in that nation (for non-professional workers).

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

Honoring India's International Diaspora

2025's 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

The 18th will take place in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, from Jan 8–10, 2025. "Diaspora's contribution to a Viksit Bharat" (Developed India) is this year's topic.

With a number of important components, this event is sure to be historic:

First Day: January 8, 2025

The External Affairs Minister, the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, and the Chief Minister of Odisha jointly inaugurated the Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. an opportunity for young Pravasi people from Odisha to get back in touch with their heritage.

Second Day: January 9, 2025

The 18th PBD Convention's opening:

In front of the convention's chief guest, Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi gave the opening remarks. The Prime Minister will virtually launch the Pravasi Bharatiya Express, a unique tourist train for the Indian diaspora, which will leave Delhi's Nizamuddin Railway Station and travel to several touristic and religiously significant locations throughout India over the course of three weeks. The Ministry of External Affairs' Pravasi Teertha Darshan Yojana will oversee the Pravasi Bharatiya Express. Additionally, the Prime Minister will open the following four exhibitions at the 18th PBD Convention:



Third Day: January 10, 2025 Valedictory Session:

Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards are presented, and President Smt. Droupadi Murmu makes closing remarks.

Second and third day plenary sessions:

1. Migrant Skills: Narratives of overcoming obstacles and constructing bridges.
2. Sustainable Development: The diaspora's involvement in environmentally friendly projects.

3. Women's Leadership: Honoring the impact of diaspora women and Nari Shakti.
4. Cultural Connections: Narratives of inclusion and cross-cultural communication.

2023 ;17 Convention

The subject of the 17th PBD Convention, which took place in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, from January 8–10, 2023, was "Diaspora: Reliable partners for India's progress in Amrit Kaal." The Presidents of Guyana and Suriname were among the notable visitors who attended this occasion, highlighting the Indian diaspora's global relevance.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi speaking at the 17th PBD in Madhya Pradesh's Indore Samman Award for Pravasi Bharatiya

History and Importance:

The greatest Pravasi, Mahatma Gandhi, returned to India from South Africa in 1915 to spearhead the nation's freedom war traditions of Odisha via its various art and craft forms and showcase its historic past. This biannual event is conducted on January 9th.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas's main objectives are

1. To honor the diaspora's contributions to India's progress
2. To foster greater awareness of India overseas.
3. To advocate for the benefit of local Indian communities worldwide and support Indian causes
4. To give Indians living abroad a way to interact with the people and government of their homeland. Through the exchange of experiences, information, and talents in a variety of disciplines, these conventions have been crucial in strengthening ties between India and its sizable international community.

Awards for Pravasi Bharatiya Samman in 2025

The honors honor their accomplishments in India and outside. Bhubaneswar, Odisha, will host the 2025 Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention from January 8–10. The honors will be presented during the Valedictory Session by the Honorable President of India. A Jury-cum-Awards Committee, chaired by the Vice-President of India and comprising the External Affairs Minister as Vice Chair along with other notable individuals, assessed the nominees. The honorees, who represent brilliance in disciplines like public affairs, science, medicine, education, business, and community service, were unanimously chosen by the committee.

This is the list of Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards 2025 winners

1. Professor Ajay Rane, Community Service, Australia
2. Austrian educator Dr. Marialena Joan Fernandes
3. Dr. Philomena Ann Mohini Harris, Medical Science, Barbados
4. Community Service in Fiji's Swami Sanyuktanand
5. Community Service at saraswati Vidya Niketan in Guyana
6. Science & Technology, Japan, Dr. Lekh Raj Juneja
7. Dr. Prem Kumar, Medical Science, Kyrgyz Republic
8. Business in Soukthavy Chowdhury, Laos
9. Business in Krishna Savjani, Malawi
10. Politics of Malaysia's "Tan Sri," Dr. Subramaniam K.V. Sathasivam
11. Community Service by Dr. Sarita Boodhoo, Mauritius



12. Mr. Abhaya Kumar, Business, Moldova
13. Dr. Ram Niwas, Education, Hla Tun, Myanmar
14. Business in Jaggannath Shekhar Asthana, Romania
15. Russian Community Service in Hindustani Samaj
16. Education in Sudha Rani Gupta, Russia
17. Dr. Syed Anwar Khursheed, Medical Science, Saudi Arabia
18. Education, Atul Arvind Temurnikar, Singapore
19. Community Service with Robert Masih Nahar in Spain
20. Tanzanian Dr. Kaushik Laxmidas Ramaiya
21. Public Affairs H.E. Christine Carla Kangaloo ORTT, Trinidad & Tobago
22. Ramakrishnan Sivaswamy Iyer, Business, United Arab Emirates
23. Community Service in Bonthala Subbaiah Setty Ramesh Babu, Uganda
24. The Baroness Politics by Usha Kumari Prashar, UK
25. American physician Dr. Sharad Lakhanpal
26. American Community Service with Dr. Sharmila Ford
27. Business (IT & Consulting) Ravi Kumar S., USA

Building closer relationships between India and its diaspora around the world is the goal of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention.

https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/38883/Pravasi_Bharatiya_Samman_Awards2025

Indians Living Abroad's Role In Advancing Indian Culture

When the late Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was in office, the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention was first held in 2003 as a way to acknowledge and create ties with the Indian population living abroad. Culture is what defines a nation. Food habits, lifestyle, attire, language, customs, religion, philosophy, art, and other aspects of a nation's citizens all reflect its culture. The world's oldest culture is thought to be Indian civilization. India has a sizable population that lives in numerous other nations that are far from it. This group consists of both temporary and permanent residents who have moved to various nations for various reasons.

Others are descendants of laborers who were more or less forcibly removed from India by the British, while others have recently made their home there. The term "migrants" or "diaspora" refers to all of these Indians. There were 1.75 crore Indian immigrants globally in 2019, according to the United Nations Population Department's report "The International Migrant Stock-2019." Regarding the number of immigrants, China, Mexico, and India rank first, second, and third, respectively. The number of Indian immigrants has increased by about 23% in the last five years. 3.5% of the current population is made up of immigrants. Among individuals who have emigrated to other nations for employment, industry, business, and other reasons, Indians make up the largest population in the globe.

<https://www.drishtiias.com/hindi/daily-updates/daily-news-editorials/the-ambit-and-the-limits-of-diaspora-diplomacy>

Every year on January 9, the Indian government commemorates Pravasi Bharatiya Divas to honor the significant role that Indians living abroad have played in the nation's progress and to give them a way to stay in touch with their homeland. Following the Lakshmi Singhvi Committee's proposal, the Indian government began honoring Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in 2003.

Important efforts have been made by the current Central Government to establish ties with the NRIs. When a government official travels abroad, he or she undoubtedly meets with the NRIs who reside there. NRIs are drawn to India as a result of this, which creates a sense of belonging in their minds. The Indian government aims to make sure that workers who migrate overseas in pursuit of greater economic prospects have "maximum convenience" and "minimum inconvenience" in order to turn the country's "brain-drain" into "brain-gain."

Global situation of diaspora

- The Arabian Peninsula is a handy place for Indians due to its historical and geographical proximity; over 8.5 million Indians reside in the Gulf countries, which have the highest number of expats worldwide.
- There are approximately 4 million Indians residing in the US. After Mexico, it has the second-highest concentration of Indians. The Indian diaspora will be crucial to the US presidential election that will take place at the end of 2020. In addition, there are a significant number of Indian expats residing in Canada, the United Kingdom, Malaysia, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Singapore, and Nepal.

Food

Indians living abroad enjoy cooking traditional Indian cuisine in their homes and societies.

Religious activities

NRIs visit temples and other places of worship and live out their religious convictions.

Conference of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

Originally founded in 2003 under the administration of the late Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention served as a forum for identifying and fostering relationships with the Indian diaspora living abroad. The Prime Minister of India launched the Pravasi Bharatiya Express, a dedicated tourist train for Indian expats, at the 18th PBD Convention in 2025. The Pravasi Bharatiya Express was run under the Ministry of External Affairs' Pravasi Tirtha Darshan Scheme.

NRI Day's main goals are

- To honor the role that Indians living abroad have played in India's progress.
- To improve foreign perceptions of India.
- To advocate for the welfare of local Indian communities worldwide and to support India's interests.
- To give Indians living abroad a way to communicate with the authorities and citizens of their homeland.

What role do NRIs play, and how important are they?

Economic Importance: In 2024, India received \$129.1 billion in remittances, the most sum ever sent to any nation in a single year. This was an impressive accomplishment that demonstrated India's supremacy in the sector and accounted for 14.3% of worldwide remittances. 3.3% of India's GDP comes from remittances. The diaspora enhances India's business environment, aids impoverished areas, and advances the nation's agenda for economic development by introducing Indian businesses to international markets and encouraging cooperation.

Indian Diaspora's Classification of Overseas Indians: Their Function in Governance and Soft Power

- Non Resident Indian : The Citizenship Act, 1955's Section 7(A) defines "Non-Resident Indian" (Nrv-Resident Indian) as an Indian national who lives outside of India or who has a "Overseas Citizen of India" card.

Any Indian citizen who does not fit the criteria to be regarded as a "resident of India" for the purposes of paying income tax is regarded by the Act as a non-resident Indian.

"person of Indian origin"

(PIO) is a term used to describe a foreign national who is not from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, or Nepal.

The person in question must either

1. have an Indian passport at any time,
2. have been born in India, be a permanent citizen of India before the Government of India Act, 1935, or have lived in any territory before it became an essential part of India after this time.

- Indian Citizens Abroad : In response to requests from Indian non-residents, the "Vite Citizenship"—also called the OCI Card—proxy citizenship scheme was created.

Indian-Origin Individuals (Pios):

- A PIO is a foreign national (who previously held an Indian passport) who was born in India, such as their parents or grandparents, or who is married to an Indian national or a PIO.
- The PIO classification excludes citizens of Bangladesh, China, Iran, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.
- In 2015, the PIO category was eliminated and combined with the OCI category. OCIs (Overseas Citizens of India): In 2005, a distinct OCI category was established.
- A foreign individual who was eligible for Indian citizenship on January 26, 1950, or who lived in a territory that joined India after August 15, 1947, is awarded an OCI card.
- These people's minor children, with the exception of those from Bangladesh and Pakistan, were also eligible for OCI cards.

The Geographical Dispersion Of Indians Living Abroad

COUNTRY	OVERSEAS
INDIAN	
United States of America	5,409,060
United Kingdom	1,864,320
United Arab Emirates	3,568,850
South Africa	1,700,001
Saudi Arabia	2,463,510
Myanmar	2,002,662
Malaysia	2,914,130
Kuwait	995,530
Oman	686,640
Canada	2,875,960



The Indian Diaspora's geographic distribution

The (MEA) estimates that there are around 32.2 million Indians living abroad, comprising 18.6 million (PIOs) and 13.6 million (NRIs).

India is the top country of origin in the world, with over 18 million individuals residing abroad, according to the World Migration Report, 2022.

Conclusion

PBD is an important event for the Indian community living overseas as it allows them to maintain a connection to their roots and contribute to India's development. The Indian government has a wonderful chance to engage with the diaspora and showcase the country's achievements and progress. In addition to commemorating the strong bonds between India and its expatriates, PBD demonstrates the vital role the Indian community abroad plays in the nation's growth and development. Considering the objectives of key initiatives like Make in India, Digital India, Clean India, Clean Ganga, and Skill India, India should seek to garner the support of NRIs in these sectors while shaping its foreign policy. Given that NRIs represent a vital resource for India, the government should focus on engaging with them. The dynamic and engaged Indian diaspora helps disseminate Indian culture and traditions across the globe. Beyond being a valuable asset for India, they also play a crucial role in promoting awareness of Indian values and culture internationally.

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