



प्रवासी भारतीय कार्य मंत्रालय
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs
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Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
Government of India

बारहवां

प्रवासी भारतीय दिवस

प्रवासी संबद्धता: पीढ़ियों का जुड़ना

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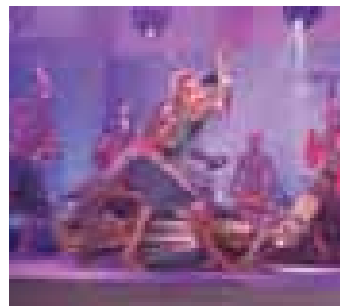
Twelfth

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

Engaging Diaspora: Connecting Across Generations

7 - 9 January, 2014, New Delhi

PROCEEDINGS & MOVING FORWARD







EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TWELFTH PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS

(7-9 January, 2014, New Delhi)

- India has the second largest Diaspora in the world after China. The overseas Indian community estimated at over 25 million is scattered across every continent. Although the migration of Indian expatriates through centuries can be attributed to several factors, today their sheer size and potential to contribute towards the India growth story have opened our eyes to endless possibilities. It is in this light that a meaningful dialogue and mutually beneficial engagement between India and its Diaspora assumes great significance. The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD), organised by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) every year in January, seeks to provide a platform to take forward the process of exploring and developing such new synergies.
- The 12th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, held in New Delhi from January 7-9, 2014 was organised by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) in partnership with the Ministry of Youth Affairs. The event was coordinated and managed by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). The event brought forth the key issues faced by the overseas Indian community and suggested ways to enhance their participation in the country's economic growth.
- The focus of the conclave was finding ways to unleash the potential of youth. In India, around 50 percent of the working population falls in the age group of 18-35 years. The conclave sought to create a sustainable and inclusive growth model by combining unique strengths of the Diaspora youth and young Indians -- specialized skills, sound technical knowledge and human capital -- required to service industrial growth in the country. The youth was cited as a medium of change in society.
- At the onset, India called upon the Diaspora youth and young Indians to come together to forge partnerships in trade, industry and social segments. "Our goal should be to build a strong global connect of youth for this purpose," said Shri Vayalar Ravi, Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs.
- It was felt for some time now that India needed an enabling policy regime to empower its youth in order to reap the benefits of its demographic dividends. A new National Youth Policy with focus on developing young Indians into a productive work force through education, skill development, healthcare and



sports was announced by Shri Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs & Sports and Minister of State for Defence.

- Indian Diaspora seeks to stay connected with their home land through religion, media and entertainment, food and yoga. The conclave endorsed the view that overseas Indians make all possible attempts to initiate their children into the values and culture of India. It was suggested that Indian universities and other social institutions through special programmes can help establish cultural linkages with overseas Indians and remove the cultural insecurity amongst Indian children.
- The delegates also called for improving air connectivity and meeting expectations of the new generation of Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), who require more handholding and enabling policies by the Government of India. It was suggested that an umbrella organisation for young Indians could be established to provide information on investment opportunities, explore possibilities of developing ties based on Public Private Partnership (PPP) model and ensure single window clearance for NRI investments.
- Pointing out that the remittances from Indian Diaspora is higher than the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India, delegates called for a government policy to attract more remittances. They also suggested creation of mentorship programmes to boost the confidence of young Indians who are looking for opportunities outside the country because of lack of education facilities and employment opportunities.
- India must work towards making the country a global manufacturing hub. The conclave cited that about 54 million young Indians will be looking for jobs in the next decade and since the agriculture sector does not have the capacity to keep pace with the required number of jobs to be created, it is necessary to enhance the manufacturing sector's contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to increase employment opportunities. The delegates suggested that it was necessary to invest in human resources to develop the young workforce with requisite education and training as per global standards and sought the help of Indian Diaspora to drive innovation in skill development by bringing in ideas, models, funds and collaborations from country of their residence.
- Further, with many new policies in place such as the Right to Information and Right to Education, India has embarked on a new journey of creating an enabling



ecosystem. But there is an urgent need for the government, businesses and civil society to rebuild the trust in the resilience of Indian economy and do not pay heed to the noise over substance, the delegates urged.

- The Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, in his inaugural address sought to dispel the perception outside the country that India was losing its momentum and that concerns about social challenges, the shape of the Indian polity and issues of governance were unfounded.
- He also lauded initiatives such as Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Suraksha Yojana to provide social security to Indian workers abroad and Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra in Delhi while announcing that India intends to establish Pravasi Bharatiya Bhawans in each state.
- The delegates also emphasised that India needs to make participation of NRIs in capital markets easier; explore ways to leverage the Diaspora network in advancing innovation and technological development in the country; and enable to institute collaboration such as community colleges from America tying up with Indian educational institute.
- The deliberations also highlighted the various issues faced by Persons of India Origin (PIOs) and Non Resident Indians (NRIs), such as visa related problems, identity crisis amongst new generation of PIOs and NRIs, Issue of absentee voting for NRIs, dual citizenship, and rationalisation of Air India ticket price, especially for those from the Gulf countries, among others.
- Stress was laid on quality education to scale up growth in the 12th Five Year Plan. For this, President Pranab Mukherjee called upon the Indian Diaspora to lend their support to strengthen and consolidate the Indian education system and its universities. The President admitted that barring a few prestigious institutions and Indian Institutes of Technologies, the Indian education system was not conducive for innovation and generating research compared with the education levels achieved elsewhere in the world. He expected the Diaspora to contribute in a manner that spawns innovations and skills required to enable India to make a global mark.



No Reason to Despair, India Heading for Better Times

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh urged Indians settled abroad to stay positive despite questions about the future of the Indian economy and concerns about social challenges.



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh lighting the inaugural lamp at PBD 2014

Inaugurating the 12th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD), Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh held out the assurance that “there is no reason to despair about the present or worry about the future. In fact, we are heading into better times ahead and I urge you to remain engaged in the future of this country with confidence and optimism,” the Prime Minister said.

He sought to dispel the perception outside the country that India was losing its momentum and stressed that concerns about social challenges, the shape of the Indian polity and issues of governance were unfounded.

He said India’s democracy is strong, participative and interactive and that the fundamentals of the economy were in fine fettle and in recent months. “We have also taken a very wide range of decisions to accelerate the implementation of mega infrastructure projects, reform tax administration, improve fiscal management, liberalise foreign direct investments and rationalise the system for allocation and utilisation of natural resources. With greater political support, we could have legislated deeper reform measures – for example, in the financial and insurance sector. However, our decisions are already beginning to make an

impact and India is re-emerging as an attractive investment destination. I am confident you will see the evidence clearly in the next few months,” Dr. Singh said.

India’s growth level this fiscal will probably remain at 5 percent, as last year, and the country’s economic situation will improve in the coming months, the Prime Minister said while acknowledging the economic slowdown witnessed in the recent past. “There has no doubt been a slowdown in the recent past, and we will probably end this year at the same level as last year with 5 percent growth.”

The Prime Minister said a number of in-



2014 PRAVASI BHARATIYA SAMMAN AWARDEES



ternational and domestic factors have contributed to this situation. “Despite these challenges, our economic fundamentals remain strong. Our savings and investment rates are still over 30% of our GDP and the entrepreneurial spirit in India is very much alive and kicking,” he added.

He said that India was changing in a way that is significant but not always evident to those who do not see the big picture. “Over the past 10 years, our communication networks have expanded exponentially and much of rural India will be connected by broadband in the very near future. About a thousand institutions of higher education are today part of the high speed National Knowledge Network.

Telephony is now within the reach of everyone,” Dr. Singh observed.

While lamenting that the government could not legislate deeper reform measures in the financial and insurance sectors due to lack of greater political support, Dr. Singh said the decisions that have been made were already beginning to make an impact and India was re-emerging as an attractive investment decision.

“I am confident you will see the evidence clearly in the next few months,” he asserted.

On the education sector, in which NRIs have a lot of interest as many of them send their children here for education,

the Prime Minister said the number of central universities in the country have gone up from 17 to 44 while the number of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) have doubled.

At the primary level, nearly every child in India is going to school today. The National Skills Development Authority is working with other stakeholders, including those from the private sector, to train 50 million people for the workforce during the next 5 years, he said.

Describing the infrastructure development in the country, he said: “We have added 17,000 km of highways and more than 200,000 km of new roads in rural

Our recent decisions are already beginning to make an impact and India is re-emerging as an attractive investment destination

*Dr Manmohan Singh,
Prime Minister of India*

Malaysia is the 18th largest investor in India and has 72 completed projects in highways and infrastructure, has a sizeable economy with 2.05 billion US dollar. He invited Indian Universities / IITs / IIMs to set up their university centers in Malaysia. Manipal University has opened its center already

*Datuk Seri. G. Palanivel
Minister of Natural Resources and Environment and
President of the Malaysian Indian Congress
Chief Guest, PBD 2014*

We reassure Government's unstinted support for Pravasis in their quest for strengthening economic and cultural links with the country of origin

*Shri Vayalar Ravi
Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA)*



areas. Our power generation capacity is expanding rapidly, aided by initiatives in solar, wind and nuclear energy to give ourselves a more sustainable energy future.”

The Prime Minister said that poverty levels in the country had been steadily going down. “India’s economic growth process has also become socially more inclusive and regionally more balanced. Inclusive development has always been the guid-

ing principle of our government and we have pursued it with great vigour and purpose in recent years. Our poverty levels are declining at faster rates; economically weaker States are growing at faster rates; agriculture growth has accelerated; and real rural wages have increased three times since 2004,” he pointed out.

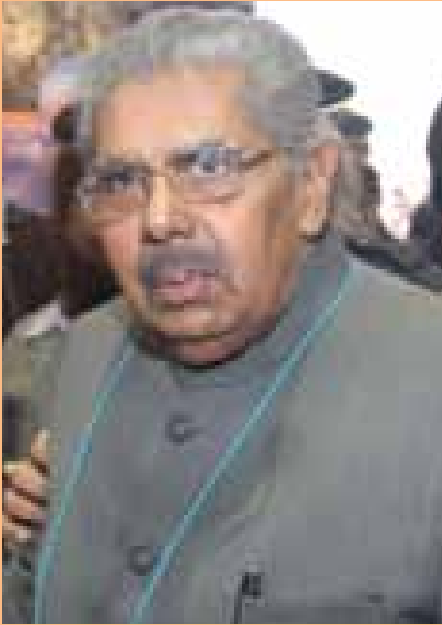
TAKEAWAYS FROM PM’S ADDRESS:

- India intends to build Pravasi Bharatiya Kendras in all states. Delhi will have one this year.
- India’s savings and investment rates are still over 30 percent of GDP and the entrepreneurial spirit is very much alive in the country.
- The education sector has been radically reformed with Central Universities having gone up from 17 to 44 and IITs and IIMs doubling in number.
- India has added 17,000 kms of highways and more than 200,000 km of new roads in villages.
- India’s poverty levels are declining at faster rates; economically weaker states are growing at faster rates; agriculture growth has accelerated; and real rural wages have increased three times since 2004.
- The National Skills Development Authority is going to impact skills to 50 million Indians in next five years.
- India has legislated Right to Information (RTI), the Lokpal and Government Procurement Bill to provide open, transparent and accountable Government.

This, he said, was due to the path-breaking legislation and schemes that have created unprecedented rights to work, food security and right to education. “For our government, inclusive development is not merely amoral imperative or a political necessity, but an essential ingredient of sustainable long-term economic growth and social stability,” Dr. Singh declared.

He said that a key priority for the government has been to provide open, transparent, accountable and clean government. The Right to Information, the Lokpal legislation, the Government Procurement Bill, changes in the systems for the allocation of natural resources and empowering our law enforcement and audit agencies are some of the steps that have been taken in that direction.

On providing a clean and transparent



The Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs says that his endeavour is to address diaspora issues and help improve ties between Overseas Indians and their homeland

Shri Vayalar Ravi, Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA), outlined the Government's priorities for the welfare of Indian expatriates and reassured them of his ministry's unstinted support to help strengthen their economic and cultural links with their homeland, in his inaugural address at the 12th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in Delhi.

"We realise that economics and business are the flavours of the modern world. While the diaspora looks back to India out of sentiment as the land of their forefathers, they equally see the opportunities in India and are keen to be partners in our growing economy," said Shri Ravi.

government, Dr. Singh expressed the view that the task was complicated "because we have to overhaul entrenched practices and systems while respecting the federal nature of our polity".

"Strengthening governance is an ongoing process and we can never say that we have done enough, but I am confident that we are moving in the right direction."

The Prime Minister expressed confidence in India's ability to assume the international role and responsibilities that the world at large expects from it. "I am also confident that the association between India and its over 22 million roving ambassadors in the expatriate Indian community will continue to deepen and prosper in the years that lie ahead, the Prime Minister pointed out.

Dr. Singh assured Mr. Datuk Seri. G. Palanivel, Minister of Natural Resources & Environment and President of the Malaysian Indian Congress, who was the Chief Guest at this year's PBD, of India's continued support and assistance and promotion of Malaysia's links with India

in every possible way.

On welfare of overseas Indians, he said: "We have also recently launched the Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Suraksha Yojana to provide social security to Indian workers abroad. The Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra in Delhi will be completed this year. We also intend to start a scheme to assist State governments in establishing Pravasi Bharatiya Bhawans," the Prime

Minister said.

Mr. Palanivel invited Indian business and expatriates to tap the abundant investment opportunities in Malaysia's palm oil industry and expressed a desire to work with India in the utilization of biological resources, education and the financial sector, as he urged Indian industry to cash in on the exemptions and incentives available in the five super economic cor-

DATUK SERI G. PALANIVEL SPEECH:

- India International Bank to open a branch in Malaysia. Currently a commercial bank is being operated by Bank of Baroda, Andhra Bank and Indian Overseas Bank.
- Malaysia foresees big scope for Indian collaboration in its Northern Corridor Economic Region, Iskandar Economic Corridor, East Coast Economic Region, Sabah Development Corridor and Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy.
- Malaysia wants to work closely with India on biodiversity.
- Malaysia wants IIT to open a branch.
- Malaysia claims to have borrowed from India's experience in implementation of its National biological Diversity Act 2002.



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh releasing a Book – ‘Incredible Opportunities Back Home’ on the occasion.

ridors in the country.

He pointed out that Malaysia has emerged in the recent years as potential investment country because of the economic and political developments in the country. Malaysia is the 18th largest investor in India and has 72 completed projects in highways and infrastructure, has a sizeable economy with 2.05 billion US dollar. He invited Indian universities / IITs/ IIMs to set up their university centres in Malaysia. Manipal University has opened its centre already.

The Malaysian Minister said his government was finalising the draft Access to Biological Resources and Benefit Sharing Bill. The Bill is intended to implement the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) regarding access to and sharing of benefits from the utilisation of biological resources.

Shri Vayalar Ravi, Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA), outlined the government’s priorities for the welfare of Indian expatriates and reassured them of the Government’s unstinted support in their quest for strengthening economic and cultural links with their country of origin.

The Minister said that exploitation of Indian workers in the Gulf countries has come down significantly on the back of a series of steps being taken and social security agreements being signed by the governments. “The first priority of the ministry has been to protect the interests of Indian workers in the Gulf. We have taken several steps. Now the complaint has come down significantly,” Shri Ravi said.

He added that India has signed social security agreements with almost all the

Gulf countries, which has helped reduce exploitation of low-paid workers.

He said Indian missions provide all necessary supports, including shelter and repatriation facilities with a view to save Indian workers from any sort of exploitations.

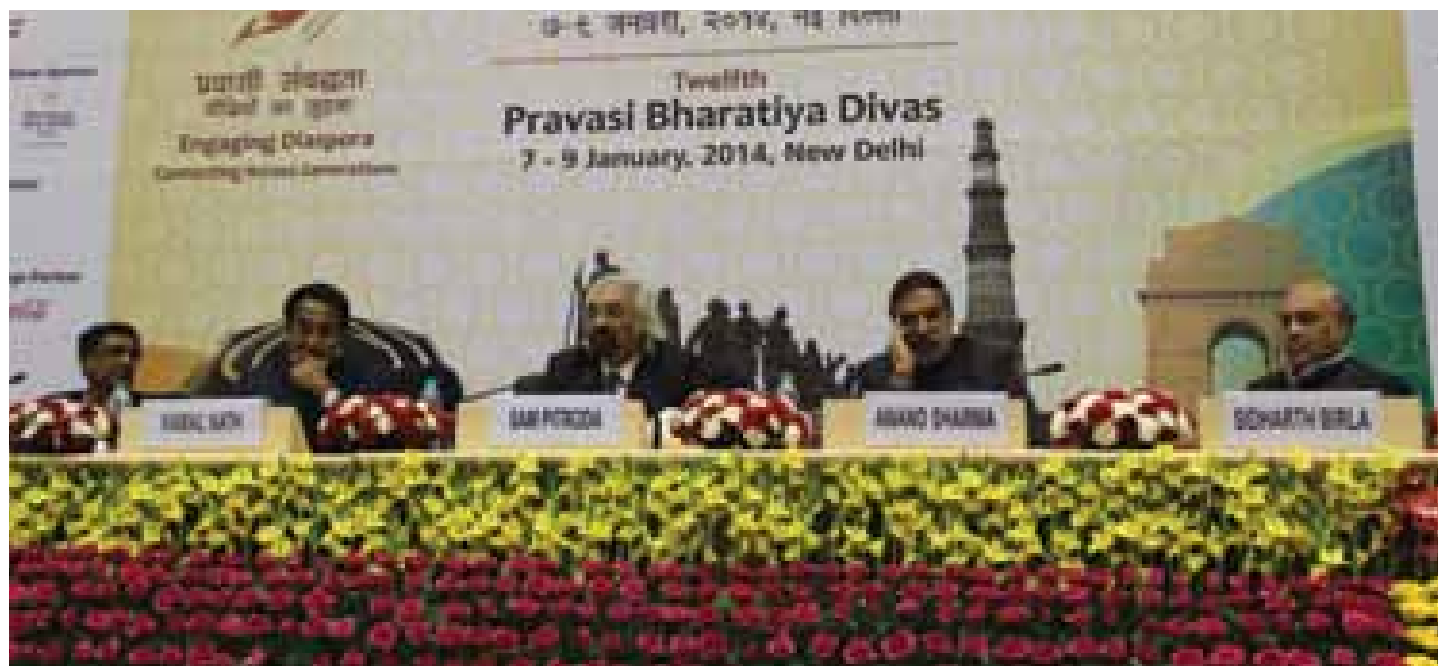
Shri Prem Narain, Secretary, MOIA, echoed similar sentiments and thanked the delegates for their participation that has recorded a new high at this year’s edition of PBD. According to official sources, of the around 900 delegates from 60 countries who attended the event this year, around 200 were from Malaysia.

PBD is celebrated January 9 every year to mark the contribution of overseas Indian community in the development of India. January 9 was chosen, as it was on this day in 1915 that Mahatma Gandhi returned to India from South Africa.



India's Pride

India seeks help from its Diaspora not only in terms of funds and investments but also wants it to drive innovation and skill development in the country



Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) and Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) have been a great source of pride for India as they have played a stellar role in the country's growth and development story, said Shri Kamal Nath, Minister of Urban Development & Parliamentary Affairs.

Speaking on the infrastructure growth, the Minister said that in India growth has preceded the development of infrastructure. With the rise in the number of cities, urban infrastructure has not kept pace and has emerged as one of the biggest challenges, Shri Nath said. The Government has initiated a number of projects such as the construction of metro rail lines in many Indian cities and is also looking at ways to integrate it with intelligent transport system, the Minister added.

He brought to the notice how after the

completion of phase IV of Delhi Metro it will have more than 402 km of tracks laid and would even overtake the London Underground. Similar metros are being planned in various cities of the country, he said.

Shri Nath stressed that India has specific needs of governance and management as it is a complex nation. "There is a need to adopt and adapt the new India vision. The country has experienced unprecedented growth with the rise in disposable income of rural Indians, which has emerged as the new aspirational class and become one of the important drivers of the economy," said Shri Nath.

Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce and Industry, in his address, said that India must focus on manufacturing and work towards making the country a manufacturing hub. "In the coming de-

cade, almost 54 million graduates will look for job opportunities; hence it is necessary to significantly raise the manufacturing sector's contribution to GDP to increase employment opportunities" Mr. Sharma said.

He expressed confidence that India's demographic dividend held out immense possibilities for higher long term growth, provided enough jobs are created for the young brigade.

He said it is possible only by creating a growth-friendly environment. India, according to Mr. Sharma, has a dearth of skilled workforce and therefore it was necessary to invest in human resources and empower the youth. "It is important to develop the young workforce with requisite education and training as per global standards, which will lead to increased employment opportunities for



SNAPSHOTS FROM PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS 2014



The NRI's participation in the capital market in India needs to increase and it could be done by initiating reforms in finance and taxation regulations. FICCI as an organisation is committed to pursue this

Shri Sidharth Birla
President FICCI



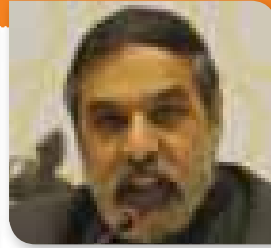
India needs specific governance and management as it is a complex nation. There is a need to adopt and adapt the new India vision

Shri Kamal Nath
Minister of Urban Development and Parliamentary Affairs



India is celebrated because of its unique national independence struggle and Indian democracy today is our biggest and best brand the world over

Dr. Mohan Gopal
Director Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary studies



The Indian Diaspora should understand that India is not just a country of billion people but also a billion opportunities and they should definitely come and work together with us

Shri Anand Sharma
Minister of Commerce and Industry.



We need to create an ecosystem with more reforms whereby we can go back to growth of 8% and various Governmental measures have been taken on this regard

Shri Sam Pitroda
Advisor to PM on Public Information, Infrastructure and Innovation

the youth.”

The government has created an ecosystem and an investment regime that has made India an important and attractive destination for investment, the Minister added. He said the government has undertaken three important reforms namely – single brand retail, banking reforms and the recent multi-brand retail. However, more progressive reforms are underway “chief among them are the Government Procurement Bill, Whistle Blower Protection Law and a coal regulatory body,” the Minister added.

He also announced that an e-business platform would be launched very soon. If GST (Goods and Services Tax) were to be resolved, it would help in increasing the growth rate to almost two percent, according to Mr. Sharma.

Shri Sam Pitroda, Adviser to Prime Minister on Public Information, Infrastructure & Innovation, said that India today enjoys high telecom connectivity and it

must use this connectivity to redesign the process and expedite the growth and development of the economy.

“India is looking to achieve an inclusive and sustainable economic growth which would benefit all strata of society, minimise income inequality and remove poverty. This is possible only through optimal utilisation of resources.”

The biggest challenge, according to Shri Pitroda, is to achieve significant growth on all fronts and bringing back the economy on the high growth trajectory. “With many new policies in place such as the Right to Information and Right to Education, India has embarked on a new journey of creating an ecosystem with more reforms, which will enable to achieve a GDP growth of 8%,” the Adviser to Prime Minister said.

Shri Pitroda said that over the past two decades, the economy has grown at an impressive pace aided by a wide range of structural reforms, thereby making

the economy more competitive. “This encouraged higher investments, savings and facilitated in increasing India's share in global output and trade volumes.”

Expressing faith in India's strong economic fundamentals, he said: “In the last decade average growth rate accelerated to 8 per cent, up from around 5.5 per cent growth witnessed during the 90s. Also, during the financial crisis of 2008, the economy was largely resilient owing to its strong macroeconomic fundamentals and financial base.”

Shri Pitroda, however, admitted that the precipitation of sovereign debt crisis in 2012, the country did witness a slowdown.

He expressed confidence on India's continued growth, saying the government has initiated a number of schemes and regulations that would make incremental changes soon. He cited laws like Right To Information, Right To Education, Right to Work, Food Security, National



Knowledge Network and Public Information Infrastructure including the Aadhaar platform for delivery of social services, as proofs of a changing India.

He also announced that a billion-dollar fund has been created to fund innovation at the bottom of the pyramid with National Skill Developmental Mission playing the key role. He emphasised that he was bullish on the future prospect of India.

Shri Sidharth Birla, President, FICCI, said that a positive environment is required to encourage expansion and creation of businesses. In recent times, businessmen could be forgiven for not really believing that an overall setting conducive to business exists in India, he said.

He urged all the stakeholders to create a positive environment to attract investments in the country. He said: "Positive intentions of the government leaders as present here today, tend to get overshadowed by noise over substance. It is easy for the atmosphere to get sidetracked by media and civil society and activism. FIC-

CI feels the urgent need for government, business and civil society to rebuild mutual trust."

He also stressed that good governance was needed to boost the confidence of businesses through predictable outcomes, tax equity and effective implementation. "Even as FICCI speaks of strengthening the domestic capital markets, we can see there is need for making participation of NRIs in our capital markets easier. Maybe there is a learning in how overseas Chinese participate in their markets; we will try to see if any concrete suggestions can be evolved."

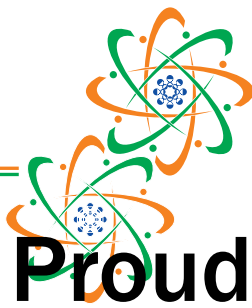
Shri Birla reiterated FICCI's commitment to engage with socio-economic initiatives and facilitate the endeavors of the Diaspora across various verticals. He said the Indian Diaspora has made significant contribution to the socio-economic development of India, through resources, sharing expertise and spending time on education, health, science & technology and rural development.

He highlighted how "procedural reforms supported through information and technology will help us move ahead in the growth trajectory and that the government has been moving ahead in the right direction". He, however, underlined that there is an urgent need for the media and civil society organisations to partner with businesses to positively move ahead with the growth and development of India.

Dr. G. Mohan Gopal, Director, Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies, emphasised that India should aim to give equal opportunity and equal voice to all its citizens irrespective of their background. "Without equality no growth and development can sustain," he said, adding that there cannot exist a poor India and rich India. There is a need to work with a vision where development promotes equality, Dr. Gopal said. He also added that India is a democratic country and authoritarian rule or populist measures cannot take the country on the path of growth, "as we need liberal political values."

TAKEAWAYS OF THE SESSION:

- Diaspora is very keen to contribute towards India's growth not just in terms of money or investment but also in terms of imparting skills and expertise.
- Delegates wanted business bodies like FICCI to have chapters in their respective countries for better business interactions.
- Governance reforms are key to attracting investments from the Diaspora and the government has already done some incremental work on this front.
- There is an increase in demand of skilled and highly skilled professionals across the world, and the National Skill Development Mission of the government is a step in the right direction.
- Participation of NRIs in capital market needs to be encouraged. The government needs to look at bringing systems in place to make the present system more attractive and exciting for NRIs to participate in the capital market.



Making India Proud & Powerful

Diaspora urged to become India's best ambassadors to spread and popularise the country's values, beliefs, culture and heritage overseas



The present aspirational India will begin to inspire the rest of the globe by 2025 when it will have 900 million people in the working age population. But it will be a challenge for successive governments to provide infrastructure and opportunities for the people to realise their collective potential, said Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of Communications & Information Technology and the Minister of Law & Justice.

In the 21st century, what we are seeing is a young India wanting to be a part of the churning of the society in the world. Aspirational India is to become inspirational India not only for us, but also for the rest of the world, the Minister said.

Shri Sibal added that by 2020, 600 million Indians would migrate to large cities, embracing latest technologies with the best of education at their command. "This would create windows for them to unleash their potential and make India a hub to interact and interconnect with the rest of the world."

Speaking on India's prowess in Information Technology (IT), he said that the revenue generated in 2006 through IT & Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES) was estimated at \$40 billion which has gone up to \$100 billion now. "Of this, US\$75 billion was contributed by export earnings. This was indicative of the strides made by the Indian economy," he added. Shri Sibal complimented the Diaspora, saying that they epitomised India's soft power and have done India proud as he hoped that they would continue to do so.

Shri Salman Khurshid, Minister of External Affairs, who presided over the session, asked the expatriates to become India's best ambassadors to spread and popularise the country's values, beliefs, culture and heritage overseas.

The Minister urged them to actively network to enable India build its brand name and image globally, so that deeper economic engagements are concluded with overseas economies, irrespective of

their size.

Smt Chandresh Kumari Katoch, Minister of Culture, in her address, said the Indian Diaspora should actively spread the country's rich heritage and cultural ethos in their host countries by organising promotional events. She outlined cultural outreach of India by talking about language, architecture, Buddhist traditions, Bollywood, Yoga, naturopathy and astronomy.

"India is one of the oldest civilizations and has influence all over the world. During British rule, Indian settlers in the world contributed to the expansion of the influence of the Indian culture. NRIs have promoted Indian culture," she said.

The Minister cited influential Indian personalities like Mahatma Gandhi, Rabindra Nath Tagore, Vivekanand, Amrita Shergil, Vasudev, Raja Ravi Verma, Homi Bhabha, Sunita Williams, Kalpana Chawla and Indira Gandhi, who promoted India's culture and soft power abroad.



SNAPSHOTS FROM PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS 2014



You (overseas Indians) are India's best ambassadors to spread and popularize the country's values, beliefs, culture and heritage overseas

Shri Salman Khurshid
Minister for External Affairs



By 2025, 900 million Indians will be within the working age limit. Perhaps India will (than) be the wealthiest country in the world. I hope Pravasis can provide opportunities

Shri Kapil Sibal
Minister of Communication and Information Technology and the Minister of Law and Justice



India may not be as strong as China militarily or financially. But it is definitely a superpower as a soft power

Smt Chandresh Kumari Katoch
Minister for Culture



Movies, cricket, cuisine, dance, culture and tourism have ability to attract more people. We've soft power in abundance

Dr. K. Chiranjeevi
Film actor, Producer and Politician



India does have hard power. It has Zubin Mehta, films, diversity and plurality. In Britain we have more than 10,000 Indian restaurants. 20 per cent of Harvard Business School faculty is Indian. Hopefully we will see an Indian becoming Prime Minister in Britain

Lord Karan Bilimoria
CBE DL
Member, House of Lords, UK

Dr. K Chiranjeevi, Actor, Producer and Politician, observed that the media has become an effective instrument in establishing linkages amongst diverse civilizations, and the Indian media and entertainment sector has made a mark on this front.

He said that India offers unprecedented opportunities to attract soft power, which is defined as the ability to share and showcase a country's culture with the world through food, music, technology, and films.

Soft power has increasingly become an important diplomatic tool to influence the world order, Dr. Chiranjeevi said. India's global influence has had a long and complex history, from the dissemination of Hindu and Buddhist ideas across Asia, contributing to Arab and Islamic thought on mathematics, astronomy and other physical and metaphysical sciences, to the more recent export of human and intellectual capital to Western universities, transnational corporations and multilateral organisations both governmental

and non-governmental.

According to the politician, the 25-million strong Indian Diaspora scattered around the globe has excelled in many spheres of life and enriched the cultural, economic and intellectual experience of countries of their residence. They have also made a significant contribution to India's emergence as an economic and cultural power. As one of the world's fastest growing economies and a vibrant, pluralist and secular polity, India offers unprecedented opportunities to project its soft power in a globalising world. The role of the mass media in such an enterprise is crucial, he added.

As the US has successfully used Hollywood to showcase its soft power to the world, Indian film industry has the tremendous potential to do the same for India. Today, India offers one of the most dynamic alternatives to Western cultural values. India's film industry is probably the largest and most effective medium for promoting Indian culture, Dr. Chiranjeevi said.

It is today the world's largest film industry, surpassing Hollywood with an annual output of over 1,000 movies. Thanks to satellite TV and the internet, Indian movies and Indian soap operas have reached a growing global audience that has become increasingly familiar with Indian society and culture, the actor-turned politician observed.

The Indian film industry, which draws huge audiences across the world, has been playing a pivotal role in refurbishing India's image. India is an attractive investment destination for financial and strategic investors. There is a steady rise in the dynamism and confidence in India's showbiz sector. This is reflected by the growing popularity of Indian movies worldwide, Dr. Chiranjeevi added.

He said that overseas theatricals currently account for around 7% of the overall film industry revenue, and is expected to increase its share in the coming years. Strong marketing of films in the international market could further accelerate the growth of overseas theatrical reve-



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nue that has to go up by 8% of the overall film industry revenue in 2016, Dr. Chiranjeevi said.

“Indian films are crossing borders with the overseas theatrical release of about 7.6 billion rupees in 2012 and expected to grow at a CAGR of 9.4% over the next five years with the size of about 11.9 billion rupees. We need to use the opportunity of huge diasporas present in different parts of the world to strengthen India’s soft power through films but at the same time, we should look beyond diasporas to make the reach of Indian films much more wider and deeper,” the noted actor said.

This, he said, “would create a multiplier effect on India’s soft power. Indian films are now trying to cross boundaries and many of them are successfully doing so, but their efforts are mostly confined to attract Indian Diaspora abroad.”

Hollywood is ruling the world not because it is confined only to a particular group of people, but because of its outreach beyond the borders and beyond cultures, Dr. Chiranjeevi said. According to him, this is because Hollywood films are made on certain themes keeping in mind the global audience. Indian films should also look at making theme-based films using latest technologies to capture the imagination of the world audience to add more weight to India’s soft power.

He suggested that on the policy front the Indian government should negotiate with the countries abroad to facilitate seamless release and exhibition of Indian films there. “As of now, there are various restrictions in different countries such as number of screens on which Indian films are released.” He hoped that Indian cinema would produce more theme-based movies to attract Diaspora and foreign viewers.

Tourism also works as a soft power, Dr.

Chiranjeevi said. “Tourists are coming to India as back packers and come again as spending tourists. The entertainment industry has begun to grow at a compounded rate of 9.4% that shows its potential in promoting Indian culture beyond its geographical boundaries,” he added. He voiced constraints – visa on arrival, inter-Ministerial wrangling and hygiene etc – which according to him were restricting India’s tourism intake from abroad.

India is the place where there is real democracy, Indian-origin British entrepreneur Karan Bilimoria, CBE DL, Member, House of Lords of Britain, said. He added that Britain may have its Magna Carta on democratic reform and Westminster, “but this (India) is where the real democracy is”.

“This is where the real democracy is, where a party can start from nothing and in one year win a state election,” said Mr. Bilimoria, to loud applause from the audience.

Mr. Bilimoria’s reference was to the AAP, which won the December 4 Delhi elections to oust the Congress after 15 years of uninterrupted rule. The AAP was formed in November 2012.

“The other Indian democratic institutions were also empowered to spread and promote Indian heritage though he believed that the soft power becomes meaningful when it is backed by hard power,” he added.

Mr. Bilimoria, the owner of Cobra beer, also said Indians vote much more than in Britain.

He said evidence of India’s soft power could be seen in the 10,000 Indian restaurants in Britain and with Indian cuisine becoming a favourite food in the country.

However, he said that India needs to strengthen its foreign service and the

strength of Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officers, which is 600 at present, should be enhanced to push ahead with public diplomacy. “As diplomats and Foreign Service officers are promoters of soft power, India needs to increase staff strengths in the foreign offices. The current strength of Indian officers abroad is very less as compared to other developed nations. Public diplomacy is essential. 25 million people of Indian origin are brand ambassadors of India. There should be a representation of youth in PMGAC,” he said.

Mr. Bilimoria said Indians are excelling in many fields in Britain and gaining in prominence. He said he was hopeful of seeing an Indian becoming Prime Minister of Britain in his lifetime.

“As most of Indian embassies abroad are in pitiable condition, there should be measures to upgrade them as they also contribute to enhance soft power of the country. Process to set up the system of visa on arrival should be expedited,” Mr Bilimoria suggested.

TAKEAWAYS:

- One of the members of the audience suggested that India should create a ‘Ministry of Alerts’ so that qualified unemployed work force gets to know about jobs.
- Shri Sibal said the government’s objective was to increase the current judge-citizen ratio (14 judges for one million citizens) to 30 judges to a million.



Diaspora needs love and affection from India

The Canadian Member of Parliament, Mr. Ujjal Dosanjh, touched the cord through an emotional speech explaining the emotional connect of Diaspora with the motherland and various problems plaguing it and impeding its growth

The Canadian Member of Parliament, Ujjal Dosanjh, spoke about his struggles as an emigrant to Britain and Canada during the PBD Oration – Reflection on the Diaspora Experience. To highlight the challenges faced by the Indian Diaspora and their longing for their motherland, the Indian-origin politician said the struggles of Indian Diaspora began thousands of years ago when Mehmood of Ghazani took them away to Dastinagar in Afghanistan. "Then they went westwards. Diaspora never forgot India," he said.

On connecting with Diaspora, Mr. Dosanjh said that they do not need any kind of assistance, but only "love and affection" of Indian citizens. Suggesting that India needs to work on basic sectors like education and healthcare, the Canadian Member of Parliament said, "Make lives of Indians better, easier, educate them and give them healthcare. Then the Diaspora will come to India."

He expressed confidence in India, saying the country can develop a lot more soft power.

"Mahatma Gandhi came to India to free India, to make it a better place. If he was here and alive he would have said we need to wake up... People in Canada got a right to vote when India became independent in 1947".

He cited Jawaharlal Nehru's address in

Vancouver, Canada, in which India's first Prime Minister urged the Diaspora to "be loyal to your country wherever you are".

He questioned the rationality of keeping people like controversial writer Shri Salman Rushdie out of India. "In the land of Khujarao we are throwing out people who sketch differently. Secularism is the principle that protects us and has been guaranteed by the Constitution. India cannot be ridden by racism, communalism and fundamentalism. Freedom should be all around as spoken by Nobel Laureates and poet Rabindra Nath Tagore," Mr. Dosanjh said.

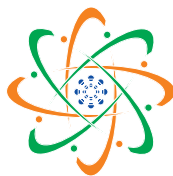
He also expressed regret that India chooses to remain silent on major issues like corruption. "We are silent about the elephant in the room – corruption. Laws don't make great countries; good and honest people make a great country. Someone asked Gandhi: 'Are you looking for a new India? He answered, I am looking for a new Indian.'"

Mr. Dosanjh pointed out that India could have avoided the 1984 riots, Godhra riots, and recently Muzzafurnagar riots in Uttar Pradesh. "If South Africa can find closure on Apartheid, why can't we find closure on Godhra and Muzaffarnagar. Future belongs to the youth. Keep the hope alive of a better world that Gandhi dreamt off."

He appreciated the changes brought by the 2014 Delhi elections. "Good to see the change. There should be no red beacon lights. Change happens from the bottom. Each and every Indian understands that corruption is eating the soul of India," Mr. Dosanjh observed.

He said there is no point in blaming politicians alone. "There is no point in blaming the system as we are the system. So we need to change the system," Mr. Dosanjh said.





Tapping Diaspora for Investment

Several States, including Rajasthan, Gujarat, Bihar, Meghalaya, Kerala, Haryana and Punjab, showcased investment opportunities during the session, and urged the Indian Diaspora to play a role in the growth and development of their respective States



The session, moderated by Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, saw separate presentations by Chief Ministers, Ministers and Senior officials of different States highlighting the need for overseas investments.

India has not done well in manufacturing and it needs to create infrastructure for boosting industrial growth, Dr. Ahluwalia said in his address highlighting the performance of the Indian economy.

“We have not done very well in manufacturing, that is a valid point. We need to do a better job in the manufacturing sector. India needs to have much better infrastructure,” he said.

The Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission said the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17) document clearly outlines the importance of infrastructure for improving performance of the manufacturing sector.

It also emphasises on the importance of ease of doing business in the country that is one of the prerequisite to promote manufacturing activities.

Dr. Ahluwalia said the latest World Bank's estimates ranked India at 134th on ease of doing business index, which is lower than the 131 rank awarded to it earlier.

Under this index, the economies are ranked on their ease of doing business,



SNAPSHOTS FROM PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS 2014



The competence of individual states reflected in their investment growth. The so-called BIMARU States had shown positive developments in last seven years

Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia
Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission



Kerala has emerged as the leading human resources hub. Health, higher education, infrastructure and IT have been the focus area as these open up splendid avenues of opportunities

Shri Oommen Chandy
Chief Minister, Kerala



Haryana has been the land of opportunities. It is home to a large number of multi-national companies and there are more than 1000 projects with foreign technical or financial collaboration

Shri Bhupinder Singh Hooda
Chief Minister, Haryana



On the 75th anniversary of India's independence in 2022, there could be no greater tribute than a developed India which is globally competitive and admired as well as locally inspiring, inclusive, resilient and united

Shri Narendra Modi
Chief Minister, Gujarat



All heads of state Governments in the northern eastern part should join hands to market the region to prospective investors to attain its collective and all round development

Dr. Mukul Sangma
Chief Minister, Meghalaya

from 1-189. Higher ranking means the regulatory environment is more conducive for business – from starting operations to running them smoothly.

This index averages the country's percentile rankings on 10 topics, made up of a variety of indicators, giving equal weight to each topic.

"These estimates (index rankings) are given for different States. If every State were to do as well as the best State, India's rank would go up from 134th to 67," Dr. Ahluwalia said.

The Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission pointed out that the State Governments are responsible for almost two-thirds of the investments in the States. Hence, a lot depends on how they view investments. All States should compete actively and positively to attract foreign and domestic investment, Dr. Ahluwalia said.

"One of the things that we are trying to do at Planning Commission is working

with our industrial groups to see how can the index of ease of doing business be actually improved... What we don't have is enough number of companies that start small and actually grow to become bigger," he added.

Kerala Chief Minister Shri Oommen Chandy also made a strong pitch for Diaspora investment. He said Kerala offers immense opportunities in sectors like information and communication technology, tourism, food and agro-processing, healthcare services, water technology and green energy, biotechnology and nanotechnology.

The State also highlighted investment opportunities in infrastructure development, ports, shipbuilding, logistics and waste management. "The State has emerged as the leading human resources hub, which cater to needs of other countries also. Health, higher education, infrastructure and Information technology have been the focus area as these open up splendid avenues of opportunities (for Diaspora Investment)," Shri

Chandy said.

Kerala is at the forefront of India's socio-economic development. The State provides a highly-skilled workforce every year that has proved smarter and more productive than their counterparts elsewhere in the country, according to Shri Chandy.

The Kerala Chief Minister pointed out that his State received a sizeable amount of over ₹ 75,000 crore of foreign remittances, as per the latest official estimates.

Highlighting Kerala's achievements, he said that the State has achieved 100% literacy and is heavily invested in education and enrichment of human resources as it allocated 40% of its annual budget to promote education at all levels.

He said that Kerala has undertaken several policy measures and offered incentives for attracting investors, which has made the State one of the most preferred investment destinations in the



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country.

The States' priority would be to encourage entrepreneurship and transforming the job market, he announced. "Public Private Partnership (PPP) route would offer attractive opportunities in Kerala for prospective investors and financiers and we welcome you in a wide range of activities," the Chief Minister said.

Haryana Chief Minister Shri Bhupinder Singh Hooda in his address said his State gives special attention to the younger generation of Indian Diaspora, as he highlighted various investment opportunities offered by Haryana.

"It (Haryana) is home to a large number of multinational companies and there are more than 1,000 projects with foreign technical or financial collaboration. The State's average economic growth rate at 9% was higher than the national growth rate of 7.7% for the last year's," Shri Hooda pointed out.

Highlighting the special treatment given to Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and People of Indian Origin (PIOs) to facilitate investment in Haryana's industrial infrastructure, the Chief Minister said that 10% of all industrial plots in each industrial estate were reserved for them. He urged the Diaspora community to take full advantage of this window.

Besides, Shri Hooda said a Foreign Investment & NRI Cell has also been created for guiding and providing advisory services to interested investors and addressing problems faced by NRIs and PIOs relating to property, marital records and law and order.

The Chief Minister also presented the latest data on Haryana's per capita income, investment and per capita planned budget allocation, which he said exceeded the national average.

Shri Hooda added that Haryana has made itself a power surplus State as its power generation capacity went up to 5,300 mw from 1,587 mw a few years ago. He said that the State has power generation capacity of 10,000 mw from all sources, which used to be 4,000 mw in 2005.

"There has also been an increase in the number of technical institutes in the State from 161 in 2005 to 662 in 2013 with in-take capacity of 150,000 students," he said. He cited the examples of Rajiv Gandhi Education City in Sonapat and the Global Centre for Nuclear Energy as the two major education related infrastructure projects in Haryana.

The Chief Minister said that Haryana has been one of the first States in the country to support Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in retail, and expressed hope that once implemented it will create back-end infrastructure and more jobs.

The State promoted sports among youth and athletes from Haryana proudly showcased their talent at the Commonwealth Games 2010, Shri Hooda said.

Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi said the nearly 25 million-strong Diaspora spread over 100 countries have played an important role in the growth and development of India.

"In spite of being thousands of miles away, you also continue playing a crucial role in the nation-building back home," Shri Modi said.

He also asked the Diaspora to play a role in the political process of the country.

"India faces a watershed election in a few months. At this crucial juncture in our nation's history, you too should not stay back. You must be a part of the revolution taking place," he said.

The Gujarat Chief Minister invited the Diaspora, especially those under 35 years of age, to connect with Indians across the globe during PBD 2015, the centenary year of the return of Mahatma Gandhi to India from South Africa.

According to Shri Modi, it is not only the financial investments that the country is looking at from the people with their roots in India but the global exposure, talent, experience, discipline and work culture to enrich the nation.

He said that in recent years investors - both domestic and foreign - have started interacting directly with States to explore avenues for investment. This has created an atmosphere of competition among States to put their best foot forward. "This trend would intensify and will generate tremendous benefits for the entire economy."

The Chief Minister said that after five years the nation would celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, and in 2022 India will celebrate its 75th anniversary of independence. On both these occasions, he said, India should celebrate the spirit of Diaspora and remember the martyrs who "gave us freedom to build our future".

On the 75th anniversary of India's independence in 2022, he said there could be no greater tribute than a developed India which is globally competitive and admired as well as locally inspiring, inclusive, resilient and united.

"We must aspire towards actualizing basic amenities to all, quality life in villages and cities, flourishing agriculture, productively working youth, equally involved women, robust physical and social infrastructure, globally competitive industry and trade, international standards in goods and services, innovation & technology driven society and economy, vibrant democracy and proactive,



pro-people good governance.”

Shri Modi also spoke about Amrut Mahotsav, India @ 75, where all Indians are to join hands and hearts in the spirit of “Ek Bharat-Shreshta Bharat.”

Dr. Mukul Sangma, Chief Minister of Meghalaya, in his address highlighted the geographical constraints of the Northern Eastern Region of the country that occasionally discourage investors, including NRIs and PIOs, to venture to park their surpluses there. He, however, emphasised that prospects for harnessing new and renewable sources of energy, including minerals, existed in the entire Northeast, especially in Meghalaya, and urged that these be tapped as soon as possible.

Meghalaya also provides investor-friendly regime with promises of attractive yields, he said. The Chief Minister asked all the heads of State Governments from

the Northeast to join hands to market the region to prospective investors for its all round development.

Addressing a separate session, Bihar Industry Minister Smt Renu Kumari said her State needed help from the diaspora to accelerate the development process.

She said that with a view to having industrial development and promotion in the State, the Industrial Promotion Policy 2011 has been successfully implemented.

Under this scheme, various units in Bihar have invested more than ₹ 5,600 crore against which these units have been provided with various incentives to the tune of more than ₹ 1,000 crore.

“Please do come and invest in Bihar. There are opportunities in all the sectors,” Smt Renu Kumari said.

Rajasthan highlighted its large mineral deposits, market access, trained manpower, lower costs, availability of land, peaceful law and order and industrial relations, offers huge advantages in comparison to other States.

In their presentation, Rajasthan officials said the State will strive to substantiate this advantage by improving availability of power, building world class highways and roads on priority.

Punjab officials, while pitching for diaspora investment, said: “Robust infrastructure, attractive policy package for industries, making Punjab the easiest place to do business, abundant talent and skills, competitive operating costs with superior quality of life, prosperous economy and an affluent consumer base, leading agricultural State, large industrial base, access to large markets and excellent industrial and labour relations.”



Showcasing Investment Opportunities

Top officials of various State Governments highlighted opportunities their respective regions, in a bid to attract investments from the Diaspora

Rajasthan



Mr. Vinod Ajmera Commissioner, Rajasthan Foundation & Commissioner, Industries Government of Rajasthan, in his presentation highlighted the heritage structures of Rajasthan and immense opportunities in the tourism sector, by saying that it is the land of forts, palaces and havelis; rich art, culture and handicrafts; vibrant and colorful living traditions with world famous fairs and festivals; and people renowned for their hospitality.

He also cited pilgrimage centers like Ajmer, Pushkar, Nathdwara and others; world famous wild life sanctuaries and national parks and parts of the famous tourist circuit of 'Golden Triangle' (Delhi-Jaipur-Agra). He also spoke on the Rajasthan Tourism Unit Policy-2007, which includes not only hotels but all tourism units like spas, golf academies, golf course with rooms, camping sites, etc.

On the incentives offered to investors, he said that there are no conversion charges for conversion of agriculture land in urban areas and conversion of agriculture land for non-agriculture purpose in

rural areas.

Mr. Ajmera said that the maximum land for allotment in urban areas has been increased and special reserve price has been kept from 10% to 50% of the commercial reserve price of the area and in rural area on District Level Committee (DLC) rate of the local area for various Tourism Units.

He said that regularisation of residential land and buildings that are being run as hotels or other tourism units in urban areas without permission and are also operational can be regularised on merit on payment of 25% of regularisation fees under the Rajasthan Municipality Rule 2000.

Ms. Veenu Gupta, Principal Secretary Industries & MD of Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment (RIICO), opened her speech by showcasing Rajasthan as a rainbow with many facets – tourism being one of the major focus and industries with its sub sectors among others.

She said the State is well-known for its rich minerals and related industries, tourism and textiles industries and is also fast growing in automobiles, Information Technology/ Information Technology Enabled Services and solar sector.

Rajasthan, a popular tourist destination, constitutes a total of 10.41% (342,239 sq km) area of the country and has

well developed infrastructure facilities, emerging health and education hub, stable political environment with a Government committed to creating a progressive business environment and strong law & order and peaceful industrial relations, Ms. Gupta said.

The Principal Secretary Industries said the State has world-class multi-product Special Economic Zones (SEZs). She cited Mahindra World City in Jaipur with largest IT SEZ on 750 acres of land, Japanese Park at Neemrana Industrial Area, Korean Zone at Ghilot (being developed), Export Promotion Industrial Parks (EPIPs) at Jaipur (largest in the State), Alwar and Jodhpur, SEZ for Gems & Jewellery and Handicrafts at Jaipur and Mega Food Park coming up at Kishangarh (Ajmer).

Ms. Gupta said the State has easy accessibility to raw materials. "There are 79 kinds of minerals, of which 58 are being commercially exploited," she said. Rajasthan is the second highest cement producing State in India with a total capacity of 44 million tonnes per annum. It is also a leading producer of cement grade limestone and steel grade limestone, she added.

Around 39% of the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor will pass through Rajasthan, according to Ms. Gupta. It is a high-impact industrial area within a belt of 150 km on both sides of the Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC), with an invest-



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ment potential of US\$ 90 billion. The key focus areas of investment are infrastructure, power, ceramic and glass, auto and auto ancillaries, solar energy and manufacturing, IT & ITES, cement and minerals, agro processing, textiles, tourism, gems and jewellery and education, she said.

Mr. N. K. Bajaj spoke about the collaboration of Rajasthan with Canada where there are immense learning opportunities and scope to share know-how.

Mr. Raman Kumar Sharma, Director and VP, Honda City Car Limited India spoke about his fine experience in the State during the establishment and implementation of the Honda manufacturing unit at Tapukara (Bhiwadi) – Rajasthan. He spoke on the advantages that the State offered to investors. The Government was keen on development, improvement and focused approach. The power situation was good and they enjoyed an envious industrial relations climate. The manufacturing unit would roll out its first

car by March 2014, within 7 years of its inception, Mr. Sharma said.

Ms. Shruti Nanda Poddar, an Educationist, spoke about the immense skill development possibility in Rajasthan. There was scope to revive indigenous knowledge system. Skill development with special focus on training teachers should be one of the primary agenda. According to Ms. Poddar, Rajasthan can be showcased as the world's cultural destination.

Bihar



In a separate session on Bihar, the State Government officials highlighted the State's potential as an attractive investment destination.

With a view to have industrial development and promotion in the State, the Industrial Promotion Policy 2011 has been successfully implemented, officials said. Under this scheme in Bihar, businesses

have invested more than ₹ 5,600 crore against which they received incentives to the tune of more than ₹ 1,000 crore, the officials said..

At least 191 units have started production, and in addition to those, 184 units are in different phases of production. In the last one year, 91 units have started their commercial production, which has led to an investment of ₹ 495 crores in the State. Due to incentives given in agriculture and agro-based industries in the last one year, there has been an increase of 800,000 metric tonnes of rice milling capacity every year, the officials told the audience.

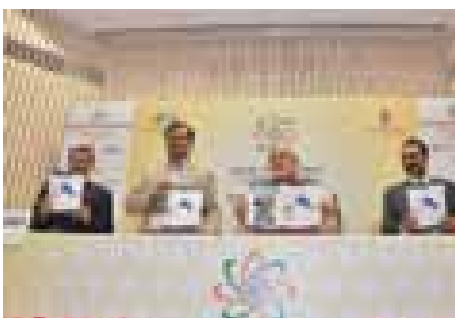
For the setting up of private industrial area, this year a new policy has been

notified, which will facilitate the private entrepreneurs to arrange land for setting up their units, the officials added.

The State Government has also launched the 'Mukhyamantri Sukshma Evam Laghu Cluster Yojana' for the growth of Micro, Medium and Small Enterprises (MSMEs) in the State.

The officials also highlighted various schemes to address the challenges faced by the investors. In order to establish a dialogue on various problems of the industry and entrepreneurs, Udhyami Panchayats are being organized for the last one year, officials said. The setting up of diamond polishing unit in Patna exhibits a completely new outlook of industrialisation in Bihar, they observed.

Gujarat



A special interactive session on Gujarat was organised at the 12th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, chaired by Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Others who participated in the deliberations included Mr. Pradeepsinh Jadeja, Minister of State, Government of Gujarat and Mr. Pankaj Kumar, Principal Secretary, NRI Division, Gujarat.

In his welcome address, Mr. Jadeja spoke about the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi and how the Gujarat Government used the PPP model to create robust and world-class infrastructure like ports and roads.

He also shared the unique strategy of Gujarat to ensure participation of all in the developmental process. Mr. Jadeja



said that Gujarat works on the mantra – “Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas” (development of all with co-operation of all). This, he said, was a complete shift from the traditional approach, wherein Government is perceived as the giver and the people as takers.

In Gujarat, efforts for inclusive growth are being made not only through Government policies but also by the action of the society as a whole, the Minister of State said. “Development is with the involvement of private sector through PPP projects, through ‘Jan Bhagidari’ (people’s involvement) and with better involvement of public servants,” he said.

He also thanked the Diaspora for successfully lobbying in their host countries for foreign investment in India, especially in Gujarat, which was highlighted by their participation in the bi annual investment summit – Vibrant Gujarat.

He also shared the various efforts that the Non-Resident-Gujarati community makes for the development of Gujarat. “In the last decade many have come back to donate for the cause of setting up world-class schools and hospitals in their native villages for the betterment of the very community which they hail from,” Mr. Jadeja said.

Gujarat State Non Resident Gujaratis’ Foundation has documented all such donations made by the PIOs and NRIs in the book “Vatan Seva-Acceptance of Feelings”, which was unveiled by Shri Modi on the occasion.

A short film on development in Gujarat was also screened on the occasion.

Shri Modi in his address thanked the Diaspora for their contribution for social causes. He shared Gujarat’s success story in the areas of tourism and infra-

structure. He said that for promoting tourism in Gujarat they have roped in Mr. Amitabh Bacchan as the Brand Ambassador, which helped in bringing more tourists to the State.

He also invited the Indian Diaspora to visit the State for the three month Rann Utsav in the Rann of Kutch.

He said that Gujarat is focusing on developing six world-class industrial cities citing the example of Dholera SIR, which is to be developed as a global manufacturing and trading hub. He cited such cities as “the engine for economic resurgence of the country.”

Mr. Pankaj Kumar thanked Shri Modi and other participants for sharing their views and thanked the Diaspora for their enthusiasm in attending the Gujarat State Session, which was attended by more than 300 people.

Punjab



Addressing the Punjabi Diaspora at the twelfth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, Dr. Karan Avatar Singh, Principal Secretary, Industry & Commerce, Government of Punjab, said the State Government has done many things for creating a viable environment for business.

“The State Government has taken significant steps to attract investment. Punjab Bureau of Investment Promotion (PBIP) has been created for this pur-

pose,” Mr. Singh said. He added that the bureau would provide a senior person as a relationship officer for each investor.

He said the Government has launched single window service for the entrepreneurs. Punjab under this system has devised a single application form for taking necessary clearance from various departments to start the business. The clearances will be granted in fixed time schedule and will be hassle free, he added.

“Punjab has provided a citizen-centric governance and has launched the Right to Service Act that covers around 149 services. The Government has also started online centres at police station called “Saanjh Kendra” and e-District ‘Suvidha Kendras’,” Mr. Singh informed the audience.

According to Mr. Singh, the new Industrial Policy of the State has four main objectives:

- Minimum interface between dealers and department
- Single stage taxation
- Dedicated refund fund
- Rating scheme for fast-tracking refunds

In the new Industrial Policy of the State, Government has offered incentives on Value Added Tax (VAT) and Central Sales Tax (CST), electricity duty, stamp duty, he said.

He added that the Punjab Government in order to permanently resolve the problem of VAT refunds has set up a dedicated corpus by the name of Punjab VAT Refund Fund.



Punjab will also be adding a lot as far as the electricity generation capacity is concerned. "Hence, it is a good opportunity for those who want to invest in the power sector."

"The State has the finest road network in the country and has the highest road density at 133 km per 100 sq km. Eleven projects with a road length of 567 km at an investment of INR 2,900 crore are to be developed," Mr. Singh said. He added that the Amritsar-Delhi-Kolkata Industrial corridor covering cities of Amritsar, Jalandhar and Ludhiana would

act as a catalyst of industrial growth in the region.

He said the band of 150-200 km on either side of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor for development covers almost the whole State.

In his address, Justice Arvind Kumar Goel, Chairman, NRI Commission, said that the Commission is working to protect and safeguard the interests of the NRIs in the State. He highlighted the achievements of the Commission, such as compulsory marriage registration for

NRIs, victim relief fund in case of death of the person abroad, illegal custody of the Punjabis abroad, and the assault on Punjabi in USA, etc.

He also told the Punjabi Diaspora about the special privilege card to all NRIs of Punjabi origin, entitling them to discounts at different shops, malls, etc. The card can be used for reservation of NRI wards in educational institutions that offer a quota for admissions, Justice Goel said.

Kerala



Kerala has earmarked sectors which have the potential for a faster rate of growth, which are Information and Com-

munication Technology, tourism, food & agro-processing, healthcare services, water technology & green energy, biotechnology, nanotechnology & other sunrise sectors, infrastructure including urban infrastructure, ports, shipbuilding and logistics and waste management. Kerala is at the forefront of India's socio-economic development.

The State provides a highly skilled workforce every year that has proved smarter

and more productive than their counterparts elsewhere in the country. Kerala has invested heavily in education and enrichment of human resources.

No State has earmarked as much as 40% of its annual budget for education. Kerala has become a human resource hub that caters to the needs of other countries.



Creating Technologies for Future

FICCI, Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) have been working on commercialising technologies. Around 150 technologies have been commercialised in over five years, creating a market worth ₹ 1,500 crore



Dr. A. Didar Singh, a former civil servant of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and Secretary General of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), said that India has declared 2010-2020 as a decade of Innovation which is a part of the PM Policy to make India more innovative and scientific.

Several initiatives have been taken in this direction in the last four years, he said. Dr. Singh lauded efforts made by Innovation unit in FICCI and mentioned that FICCI, Department of Science & Technology (DST) and Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)

have been working on this simple and effective tool of commercialising technologies. Around 150 technologies have been commercialised in over five years, creating a market worth ₹ 1,500 crore.

Mr. S. Ramadorai, Chairman, National Skill Development Agency, emphasised on the importance of Skill Development in his speech. He said that at this time so much is happening at political, economic and social front in India. India is transforming and people's aspirations are at an all time high. "Today India faces skill development challenges. India's youth should be made aware of job prospects, high skilled programmes entrepreneurial

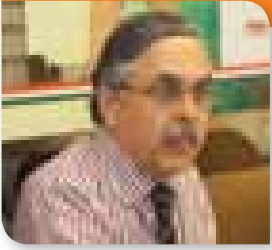
activities and that these should result in job creation."

He emphasised on the need of scaling up the job opportunities. He discussed relevance of technology and innovation and how diaspora can participate in the same. Around 70 per cent of Indian youth should be working by 2050 and their issues should be addressed. Govt. of India is leveraging PPP, which in turn is scaling up the private sector participation.

"We need to ensure that institutions like FICCI should play a very important role in technology and innovation field," Mr. Ramadorai said. He highlighted the NSD fund for capacity building in the country

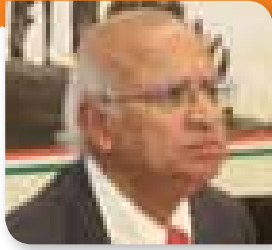


SNAPSHOTS FROM PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS 2014



India has declared 2010-2020 as decade of Innovation which is a part of PM policy to become more innovative and scientific as a nation and an economy

Dr. A. Didar Singh
Secretary General, FICCI



Around 70 per cent of Indian youth should be working by 2050 and their issues should be addressed

Mr. Subramanian Ramadorai
Chairman, National Skill Development Agency (NSDA)



India needs to have new and original Innovations and this is only possible through R&D in this field

Mr. Birendra (Raj) Dutt Ph.D
Chairman & CEO of APIC Corp. and PhotoIC Corp



India has great strength in terms of human resource specially the young population. Lots of changes are happening in the innovation investment ecosystem

Mr. Prasad Yarlagadda
Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane Australia

and new innovation focus systems and enabled multi-models for education. He also mentioned about the various job portals that have come into existence in recent years and helping in job creation for urban as well as rural youth. Strong social networking sites today helps us in sharing best practises now-a-days. Several grants have been spent heavily in technologies and frugal innovations by the Government.

He made following suggestion:

- Diaspora can bring their new Ideas from their native land and share their best practices
- They can bring Funds into India in the field of Innovation and Technology
- They can help in setting up a digitised content library in India
- They can enable institutions from both the countries to come up and set up combined institutes in India
- They can share technologies of new tools/techniques in India

He asked the Indian diaspora to volunteer and come up with special proposals and send them to National Skill Develop-

ment Council of India and also requested for their feedbacks and suggestions.

In his concluding remarks he said that the trend of investing in R&D has already started in India and there are many funds available currently for researchers such as funds for IP protection, social innovation fund, technology development etc. India has strong IPR laws to protect the technical knowhow. There are number of public private partnership programs which are running successfully in India.

He suggested that Indian Government could take following steps for Skill Development:

- Sector skill councils for each domain
- Competencies for job roles

Professor Prasad Yarlagadda has worked in industry and universities for 30 years in India, Hong Kong, Singapore, Papua New Guinea, and Australia. He was Founding Director of Smart Systems Research theme (2005-2009) in Queensland University of Technology (QUT). He received number of awards from various national and international agencies for his outstanding contribution in engineering

field. He received Fryderyk Staub Golden Owl Award from World Academy of Manufacturing and Materials, Poland, for his outstanding contribution in the discipline of materials and manufacturing engineering in the international arena.

He said that the funding in Research and Development in Technologies is limited. He emphasised on the need of equal participation from public and private sectors. He then talked in detail about his areas of expertise which comprises of following industries:

- Automotive Industry
- Mining Industry and
- Processing and Fabrication Industry

He shared the following information about Australia:

- Australia is not a place for manufacturing and is very expensive for production
- That skill is very expensive in Australia as compared incorrection as suggested earlier not done
- That Australia concentrates on high-end technologies
- That Environment protection costs



are very high in Australia and getting clearances for the same are very difficult

- India has a large young population below 35 years whereas Australia will have a large pool of old population above 60 years in next coming years

He also mentioned about the large pool of resources that India holds today. He then gave examples of major Investments in Australian Mining Industry by ADANI, GVK, AMR India etc. He then shared his experiences in Aviation Industry where he raised security issues at Airports. He said that he has signed a MOU with GVK airports for his technology based on future of airport security. He discussed his second case study on Optimal Anatomical fit for Fracture Fixation. He has developed an algorithm which will result in Robotic surgeries for various traumas and orthopaedic surgeries and how this technology is being used by various hospitals abroad.

In his remarks, he said that India has great strength in terms of human resource, especially the young popula-

tion. Lots of changes are happening in the innovation investment ecosystem. Intellectual Property has gone a long way compared to last ten years. But to progress further we need a strong commitment from the Government for the promoting the innovation ecosystem in India.

Dr. Raj Dutt leads the new wave of technology entrepreneurs at the forefront of photonics, the natural and necessary sequel to electronics. His research and contributions in physics, fluid mechanics, image understanding, robotics, and artificial intelligence have provided him with transformative insight into the vital role that optical networks will play in realizing our future expectations in information transfer and processing. Not just a visionary, his practical efforts span the entire spectrum of photonic interconnects from semiconductors to vast networks.

He emphasised on the connection between R&D Investments, Innovations, Disruptive technologies and Global leadership. He spoke about his work involving photon (particles of light). He was of the

view that only Innovation cannot help in building future but also investments. He urged Indian Government and Industry to make huge investments into R&D. He said that investment in R&D and especially in purchases of hardware is must to help India eradicate poverty in India.

The Indian brain drain were taking place in software Industry due to lack of investment in R&D facilities in India. APPLE is able to make a huge profit from Iphones by owning its technology part whereas countries which assemble it like China gets a very small share of profit. India needs to have new and original Innovations and this is only possible through R&D in this field. He said that the way forward is taking risks, investing in R&D and by Involving youth into it. He concluded by stating that India should emerge as nation of Innovators rather than just service providers.

He emphasised very much on owning the IP protection on the innovations currently Indian scientist are working on and he explained it with a simple example of how Apple is earning \$150 out of \$ 250 for sale of one phone in India.



Health is wealth too

₹ 1,11,000 crore has also been released by the Central Government to 35 State Governments and Union Territories in the last few years



In view of the expected growth of the Indian healthcare industry to US \$ 160 billion by 2017 from the present level of US \$80 billion, the Union Government has decided to undertake upgradation of 39 more medical colleges as super-specialty hospitals to provide State-of-the-art tertiary healthcare, said Ms. Santosh Chaudhry, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare.

She informed that 19 Government medical colleges have been upgraded as super specialty hospitals during the last 6-7 years. More than ₹ 1,11,000 crore have also been released by the Central Government to 35 State Governments and Union Territories in the last few years.

Elaborating on the rural and urban health missions of Government, she said, "Nearly 51,000 health facilities have been created, including new construction and upgradation work to im-

prove public health infrastructure. More than 70,000 beds have been added in Government health institutions to provide essential and emergency services across the country".

The Minister said that in 12th Plan period, the Government would strengthen initiatives to provide Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in the country, giving access to essential range of medicines and treatments for the population. For the overall development of AYUSH services, educational institutions, quality control of drugs and medicinal plants, the Government was planning to implement a National AYUSH Mission through which traditional systems of medicines were intended to play a critically important role in UHC.

Ms. Sangita Reddy, Executive Director, Apollo Hospitals, while presiding over the session said that the mismatch between

demand and supply of healthcare has grown exponentially. This needed to be addressed urgently so that the growing gap is bridged and India is able to service health requirements of the people. Over the past few years, India made significant achievements in the field of healthcare but lot more needed to be done through the public private partnership route.

Dr. Jayesh B Shah MD and President, AAPI, US, in his observations, said that a good number of doctors of Indian origin serving in USA have begun to treat patients in India whenever possible through various pilot projects. One such project is SEVAK launched in Ahmedabad. The doctors in USA have sense of belonging and they feel that it was now their turn to serve their motherland with altruistic purpose.

Dr Ashok Seth, Chairman, Fortis Escorts



SNAPSHOTS FROM PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS 2014



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The policies exist to creating infrastructure facilities required to address health issues but actions were missing for which blame did not lie with Government alone

Dr. Ashok Seth
*Chairman, Fortis Escorts
Hearts Institute*

Hearts Institute, talked about rising opportunities in the healthcare sector that could be tapped with joint efforts of the Government and the private sector. The policies exist to creating infrastructure facilities required to address health issues but actions were missing for which blame did not lie with Government alone.

Among others, who also took part in the deliberations on the subject comprised Dr. Nandini Tandon, Vice-Chair & Board

Member EL Camino Hospital, Silicon Valley and Mr. E M Najeeb, Executive Director, Kerala Institute of Medical Sciences.



Connecting Across Generations

The session was convened to bring together the various Diaspora organisations and members to share their concerns and expectations



Mr. T. P. Sreenivasan, IFS (Retd), moderator of the session, briefed upon the role of Diaspora organisations. He stated that Diaspora organisations were able to not only promote the interests of the migrants but also establish schools, hospitals and other facilities for their own welfare. He pointed out that Diaspora organisations began to be formed on regional, linguistic and political considerations.

Mr. Sreenivasan highlighted the importance of the session as a platform to discuss the ways and means to strengthen Diaspora organisations, to establish ways and means to have continuous exchanges between organisations and Government of India and to discuss issues that may be of concern to Diaspora, which are required to be brought to the attention of Government of India.

The panelists of the session discussed the following issues and concerns:

Mr Ashook Ramasaran, President, GOPIO, US, urged for the active involvement of the Indian Diaspora with the Government of India to address issues such as consular services, property rights. He proposed a report to update the figures/statistics of the Indian Diaspora in various countries. He also suggested meaningful dialogue with Government of India to resolve issues speedily.

Dato'Seri Utama S. Samy Vellu, Special Envoy for Infrastructure to India and South Asia, Prime Minister's Department, Government of Malaysia, pointed out that India is increasing its mark on the global economy. There are numerous opportunities to be tapped by the Indian Diaspora, hence they should actively get involved with the Indian industry and

Government of India. He emphasized on giving priority to the children of Indian Diaspora.

Lord Diljit Singh Rana, Member, House of Lords, UK, highlighted the role of PIOs/NRIs in terms of encouraging youth, knowledge sharing ie. Innovative ideas. He emphasized upon the review of outcomes of PBD and planning of future steps/action plans accruing out of such programmes. He suggested a website to connect with Indian Diaspora, maintenance of directory of the Indian Diaspora and to organise a global level conference to connect with the Indian Diaspora.

Mr Naval Bajaj, President, Indo-Chamber of Commerce, emphasised upon continuous exchanges between Indian youth and the Diaspora youth, which can result in beneficial partnerships. He also suggested on developing outreach



SNAPSHOTS FROM PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS 2014



The importance of the session as a platform is to discuss the ways and means to strengthen diaspora organisations, to establish ways and means to have continuous exchanges between organisations and Government of India

**Mr. T.P. Sreenivasan,
IFD (Retd)**
Former Ambassador



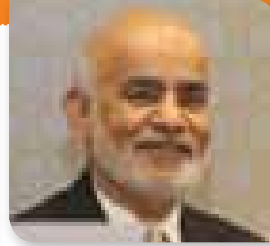
We should be giving priority to the children of Indian diaspora

**Dato'Seri Utama
S. Samy Vellu**
*Special Envoy for
Infrastructure to India
and South Asia, Prime
Minister's Department,
Government of Malaysia*



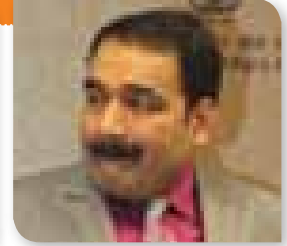
We should update the figures/statistics of Indian diaspora in various countries

Mr. Ashook Ramasaran
President, GOPIO, USA



We should have a website to connect with Indian diaspora, maintenance of directory of Indian diaspora and to organize a global level conference to connect with Indian diaspora

Lord Diljit Singh Rana
*Member, House of
Lords, UK*



We should develop outreach programmes for Indian diaspora to help them learn more about Indian culture

Mr. Naval Bajaj,
*President, Indo-Chamber
of Commerce*

programmes for the Indian Diaspora to help them learn more about the Indian culture.

He pointed out the effort of his organisation to plan trade missions at the time of PBD. He concluded by stating that instead of umbrella organisation over Diaspora organisations, we should focus on having MOUs to work with other Diaspora organisations and cooperate to resolve issues.

Adv. Y. A. Rahim, President, Indian Association Sharjah, highlighted the achievements of his organisation such as establishments of schools, contribution towards health welfare of the Indian Diaspora.

Mr. K. Kumar, Convenor, Indian Commu-

nity Welfare Committee, also highlighted the achievements of his organisation such as payment of school fees of needy children, providing financial assistance and medical assistance to the Indian Diaspora, handling cases of prisoners in jail etc. He requested Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs to pay close attention to issues of the Indian Diaspora in Gulf.

Mr. Mahyendra Utchanah appreciated the positive steps taken for the Indian Diaspora such as telecast of Doordarshan, creation of centres of excellence and importance to youth of the Indian Diaspora. He also pointed out certain measures which need to be focused upon include cultural centres, PIO TV, issue of PIO Cards, social networking for the Indian Diaspora and visa on arrival.

He concluded the session with his suggestion that Indian Government should come out with collaborative research project on World Labour or Indentures.



Making India a Hub of Media and Entertainment Industry

Media and entertainment is already the instrument by which India connects with its Diaspora. The question is: how can we make India the hub of the global media and entertainment industry



Moderator: Shri Vikram Chandra, Director and CEO, NDTV

Panellists: Dr. Kamal Haasan, Filmmaker, Producer, Actor; Director, Rajkamal Films International; Shri Ramesh Sippy, Film Producer and Director; Ms Anuradha Prasad, Chairperson and Managing Director, B.A.G. Films & Media Ltd; Shri Munish Gupta, Chairman and Managing Editor, PIO TV Pvt. Ltd

Mr. Vikram Chandra

Media and entertainment is already the instrument by which Mother India connects with her children. The question is: how can we make India the hub of the global media and entertainment industry?

Dr. Kamal Haasan

The Indian media and entertainment industry is at the cusp of exponential growth today, even though it is somewhat belated. However, we still have miles to go in terms of realizing our potential.

Mr. Ramesh Sippy

The mobile industry grew in India faster than anywhere else, even more than the USA. That is how modern technology works. It is in the same way that the media and entertainment industry in India is growing—and we are catching up with the world. Consumers of our products are spread out across the world. If we produce quality content, then there are people ready to devour it. What we have to accomplish is do what we do better.

Ms. Anuradha Prasad

The Indian media and entertainment industry is a power that has just been unleashed. The juggernaut has started rolling, not just within the nation or for the Indian diaspora but also the whole world. In the era of convergence, Young India is ready to conquer the world.

Mr. Munish Gupta

I moved from Indian M&E space to the diaspora M&E space. But in two decades,

the Indian M&E industry saw such a revolution that it inspired me to move back and rejoin the industry here.

India is a major player when it comes to world politics and world economics—we have to make Indian global M&E player of the same kind of stature. Bollywood has already accomplished this in some part. Going forward, collaborating with diasporic Indians across the world will create an enabling platform for the Indian M&E industry to become a bigger player in the global market. To that end, Pravasi Bharatiya Divas has done a remarkable thing by including M&E as part of its deliberations.

FILM

Mr. Vikram Chandra

Indian films are increasingly seeing major success abroad. Dhoom 3 has done business worth 150 crore in the overseas market. What do you see this leading to?



SNAPSHOTS FROM PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS 2014



Indian films are increasingly seeing major success abroad. Dhoom 3 has done business worth 150 crore in the overseas market. What do you see this leading to?

Mr. Vikram Chandra
CEO, NDTV Networks



India is a country of more than 1 billion people, and the average ticket price is Rs 150. Given the size of our population, and how many people in India watch films, we should be aiming at business worth Rs 1 billion

Dr. Kamal Hassan
Bollywood Personality



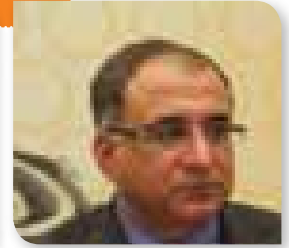
Consumers of our products are spread out across the world. If we produce quality content, then there are people ready to devour it. What we have to accomplish is do what we do better

Mr. Ramesh Sippy
Film Director



We have all the talent in India, all we need is a push from the Government to move forward. I am eagerly waiting for the day when Hollywood becomes secondary to Bollywood for the world's population when they think of films

Ms. Anuradha Prasad
Managing Director, BAG Films



That day is not too far off. Bollywood films today earn 50% of their revenue from within India, and the other 50% from abroad

Mr. Munish Gupta *Chairman and Managing Editor*
PIO TV Pvt. Ltd

Dr. Kamal Haasan

As hands-on industry persons will agree, this is just the tip of the iceberg.

India is a country of more than 1 billion people, and the average ticket price is Rs 150. Given the size of our population, and how many people in India watch films, we should be aiming at business worth Rs 1 billion.

The way to make this happen is transparency. If we lose opacity when it comes to ticket sales, etc., we will be able to make the Rs 1 billion dream come true. And I hope that this is something that happens during my own acting lifetime. Ticket rates should not be controlled by State Governments—this will facilitate better monetization of our films.

Mr. Ramesh Sippy

I am confident this will happen by 2020. When Sholay was made, so many years ago, it captured only 15-20% of the market. Dhoom 3 has captured 50%. This will only keep increasing with time.

Also, foreign filmmakers know that there

are stories in India that can be told to the world. Look at the example of Slumdog Millionaire!

Ms. Anuradha Prasad

Young filmmakers today are producing films that have not just national appeal but pan-world appeal. The next step is for Indian filmmakers to start producing films in English, using it as a link language to the rest of the world.

We have all the talent in India, all we need is a push from the Government to move forward. I am eagerly waiting for the day when Hollywood becomes secondary to Bollywood for the world's population when they think of films.

Mr. Munish Gupta

That day is not too far off. Bollywood films today earn 50% of their revenue from within India, and the other 50% from abroad. Whereas, for Hollywood films, only about 35% of their revenue comes from English-speaking countries outside the USA.

But for this to happen, we need schools

that cultivate talent. A lot more money needs to be invested in infrastructure for film and TV products.

Recommendations from the panel

- Our film training institutes are far behind US/European counterparts. We need more schools that focus on skill development.
- We have fantastic manpower. What we need is to create a technical environment that will encourage Hollywood and other foreign filmmakers to come and shoot in India.
- India needs more film theatres. We have 6,000 theatres in India, whereas China has 60,000 theatres and the US has 35,000 theatres. Six thousand theatres are simply not enough for Indian filmgoers.
- The industry needs Government help to make things like getting shooting permits and clearances easier. This will encourage more film tourism and co-production.
- Indians have been using the English



language for 350 years. It is time for India to make English films and establish a better connect with the global cinema-goer.

- The film industry should explore the option of collaborating with Indian Diaspora working in the M&E industries of their countries of residence in order to facilitate bilateral film production.
- Talent and technology already exist in India. We need entrepreneurship spirit and infrastructure.
- The Government should look into helping the M&E industry so that it is able to be on equal footing with other industries in India.

TELEVISION

Mr. Vikram Chandra

The TV industry (particularly news) right now is in a bad mess. The business models for it are not working out. Unlike in other countries, where profits from the audience is split between the broadcaster and the distributor, in India cable operator takes the majority of the money, and additionally asks for a carriage fee for distribution. The TV sector is completely dependent on advertising for revenue, and advertising is driven by

a ratings system that is defunct and unreliable.

Also, content—particularly for TV news—is nowhere near what it needs to be.

Ms. Anuradha Prasad

The Government has so far not been as much of a facilitator for the industry as it could be. As a result, it has not been possible for the industry to explore and develop other sustainable revenue models.

Another problem that India is facing is that despite us being such a huge nation, we do not have a single global TV brand, like the BBC, CNN or Al Jazeera. If something significant is happening in some part of the world, Indian news channels are not always there to cover it. There is sporadic presence, but it is not cohesive. We need a wholesome global brand from India.

Mr. Ramesh Sippy

Social media is making us all more conscious about rights, freedoms and the world. New media and convergence have to be taken seriously while thinking about the future of the TV industry.

Mr. Munish Gupta

There is a problem of too many. There is no uniqueness of content for many chan-

nels and there is overlap in many areas.

Another reason why it appears that TV is not doing well is because overseas corporate who have entered India have not yet started pumping revenue into the industry.

Recommendations from the panel

- The issue of content poverty has to be addressed, and good and unique content encouraged.
- The better the content a broadcaster wants to produce, the greater the investment. Hence alternative revenue models, particularly for news, have to be developed.
- Ratings systems have to be revisited and updated
- The convergence ecosystem needs to be capitalized on, especially since social media has the ability to establish connects with larger and younger audiences.
- Broadband/digital connect has the power to change the M&E ecosystem completely. It is essential that the Government push the issue of 100 per cent digitization across the country.



Challenges of Indian in Gulf

The panelists identified many challenges including need to have a closely monitoring and regulatory system for the NRIs in the Gulf region, proper counseling process and more transparency in the recruitment process



Shri E. Ahamed, Minister of State for External Affairs, opened the session on 'Issues of NRIs in the Gulf' by highlighting the fact that over the years India has developed deep links with the Gulf countries and has strategic partnership in the area of economics, security, defense and a host of other areas. He said that Indians are the favoured expats in the Gulf region because of their law abiding nature and technical competence. Shri Ahamed emphasized that there should be a closely monitoring and regulatory system for the NRIs in the Gulf region; proper counseling process; and more transparency in the recruitment process. He acknowledged that we are going in the right direction, but still a lot has to be done to address the issues of the expats in the Gulf region. Indian Ambassadors

to all the GCC countries were special invitees in the session.

Stating that remittances received from abroad constitute more than 20% of the GDP of Kerala, Mr. K C Joseph, Minister for Rural Development, Planning, Culture and NORKA, Kerala, underscored the importance of expats. He mentioned a number of unique and important initiatives started by the Government of Kerala for safeguarding the interests of the NRIs in the Gulf region, including a programme initiated for rehabilitation of the returnees.

Shri M. A. Yusuff Ali, Managing Director, EMKE Group & vice Chairman, NORKA ROOTS, highlighted that the session covered the issues of more that 7 million

NRIs who send remittances amounting to more than ₹ 75,000 crore. He underscored the importance of the NRIs based out of Gulf and acknowledged their role in India's all round development.

Dr. B. Ravi Pillai, Chairman and Managing Director, R P Group of Companies, thanked the Government of India for effectively solving the Nitaqat issues faced by Indians working in Saudi Arabia. He suggested various ways to tackle the issues of NRIs in the Gulf, for instance, speeding up of legal services provided to NRIs and operation of more Air India flights for the gulf region.

Shri Vayalar Ravi, Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs, was also present during the session.

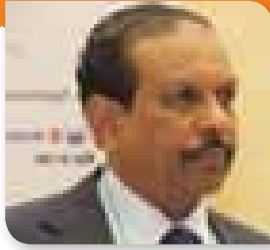


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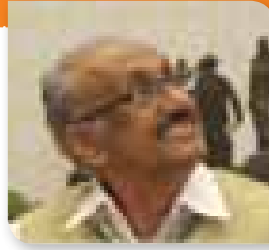
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Shri. E Ahamed
Minister of State for External Affairs



We are discussing issues that cover more than 7 million NRIs who send remittances amounting to more than ₹ 75,000 crore

Shri. M.A. Yusuff Ali
Managing Director, EMKE Group & Vice Chairman, NORKA ROOTS, Kerala



A number of initiatives have been taken by the Government of Kerala for safeguarding the interests of the NRIs in the Gulf region, including a programme initiated for rehabilitation of the returnees

Shri. K.C. Joseph
Minister for Rural Development, Planning, Culture and NORKA ROOTS, Kerala

The following issues were raised and deliberated upon during the session:

- Voting Rights of NRIs
- Few number of Air India flights operating between India and Gulf region
- Waiver of taxes on remittances
- Legal services for the NRIs
- Indian Community Welfare Fund for the NRIs
- Pension schemes for poor NRIs
- Need to increase the staff at overseas Indian missions
- Dispatch of dead bodies of NRIs
- Problems faced by jailed NRIs.

The panelists assured that the Government of India is in the process of resolving and addressing the above mentioned issues. For instance, the Government has enrolled the NRIs in the voting list and they can cast their vote, if they are in the country at the time of elections. They acknowledged that the number of flights operating is quite less and are trying to improve the service. They assured that the Indian Community Welfare Fund for the NRIs is being entirely spent on the welfare of the NRIs. Indian Ambassador to Oman added that they have disbursed nearly 80 per cent of the fund. The Ambassador to Bahrain said that they would address and resolve the problems faced by jailed Indians.

Shri Vayalar Ravi assured that he would look into the issues raised and would try to resolve them at the earliest.



Education key to India's next golden age'



Education is what will determine how fast India joins the ranks of leading nations of the world, President Pranab Mukherjee said in his address at the valedictory session of PBD 2014

"I believe education is the alchemy that can bring India its next golden age," President Pranab Mukherjee said in his address at the valedictory session of the 12th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, the annual gathering of the Indian Diaspora.

"The success we achieve in educating our people will determine how fast India joins the ranks of leading nations of the world," he said.

President Mukherjee said that if India has to attain a growth rate of nine per cent per year, as has been envisaged during the 12th Five Year Plan period, "we must put in place enabling factors, most prominent of which is education".

He pointed out that no Indian from India has won the Nobel Prize since C.V. Ra-

man in 1930, and said educational institutes in the country should focus more on research and development.

"I have been urging our educational institutions to invest more in research and development and to pursue greater international linkages by establishing collaborations with foreign universities and inviting the best of faculty from across the world to come and teach in our institutions," the President said.

He said the Government has prioritised higher education and supported it with increased resources, and enrollment to higher education institutions in the country has increased from ₹ 1.39 crore in 2006-07 to ₹ 2.18 crore in 2011-12.

"Over the last nine years, the Govern-

ment has prioritised higher education and supported it with increased resources. Enrolment to higher education institutions in the country has increased, from ₹ 1.39 crores in 2006-07 to ₹ 2.18 crores in 2011-12. India has today 659 degree awarding institutions and 33,023 colleges. In a world marked by increasing constraints on natural resources, innovation will be the key to future growth," President Mukherjee said.

However, despite the rise in the number of higher education institutes, India has very few institutes of global standards, Shri Mukherjee said.

"Time has now come for us to reclaim our leadership position in the world as far as higher education is concerned. Our effort to increase 'quantity' must be matched



Shri Manoj Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs delivering vote of thanks during the valedictory session of PBD 2014

with commensurate efforts to improve 'quality'," he said.

He said that in a world that is facing increasing constraints on natural resources, innovation was another key area India should focus on.

"China and the US are amongst the countries at the forefront of innovation with over five lakh (500,000) patent applications filed by each country in 2011," he said.

"In contrast to this, India filed only 42,000 patent applications, which is far behind these countries. As per an international survey, only three Indian companies are amongst the world's 100 most innovative companies."

He called on both the industry and higher education institutes to emphasise on research.

"We have only 119 researchers in R&D per million people, as compared to 715 in China and 468 in the US. Out of the total student strength of 71,000 in NITs,

there are only 4,000 PhD students. In IITs, there are only around 3,000 PhD students in the total student strength of 60,000," the president said.

Stating that upgrading the standards of higher education in India should be accorded top priority, he said: "Overseas Indians such as all of you gathered here can play a major role in supporting and supplementing the efforts of the Government to remedy this situation."

The President was happy to note that the discussions during this year's PBD included a session on innovation and technology. Every year the Rashtrapati Bhavan hosts an exhibition on Innovations. He has also initiated a programme inviting talented young innovators along with artists and writers to live in residence at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, to take innovative ideas forward and be provided mentoring and support.

He said the Indian economy was more resilient than most other countries.

"I am sure you have (the) confidence in

the inherent resilience of our people and the dynamism of our economy which has the ability to overcome temporary downturns," he said.

The President said that the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is an occasion when people and Government of India renew and strengthen our bonds with the Indian Diaspora. It is an opportunity to advance the mutually beneficial relationship between Indians within and outside the country.

He congratulated all winners of this year's Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards. "They have made their mark in their countries of adoption and advanced the welfare of the communities in which they live and work.

"Indian Diaspora — through their success and their contribution to their host countries, they have consistently brought laurels to their land of ancestry. Matter of great pride to all Indians that the Overseas Indian community is respected for its work culture, discipline, and successful integration with local communities,"



he said.

The President gave away the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards to 13 NRIs and PIOs who have made distinguished contributions to public life. The recipients were:

Ms. Senator Lisa Singh, Public Service – Australia

Mr. Kurian Varghese, Business – Bahrain

Mr. Vasdev Chanchlani, Business & Public Service - Canada

Ramakrishna nMission, Fiji, Community Service – Fiji

Mr. Bikas Chandra Sanyal, Education & Culture – France

Mr. Satnarainsing Rabin Baldewsingh, Public Service – The Netherlands

Mr. Sasindran Muthuvel, Public Service – Papua New Guinea

Shri Shishabudeen Vava Kunju, Community Service – Saudi Arabia

Mrs. Ela Gandhi, Public Service - South Africa

Dr. Shamsheer Vayalil Parambadh, Healthcare Business – UAE

Mr. Shailesh Lakhman Vara, Public Service - UK

Dr. Parthasarthy Chiramel Pillai, Science – USA

Ms. Renu Khator, Education - USA

He hoped this year's Pravasi Bharatiya Divas would seed many initiatives for "deepening our mutually beneficial engagement".

"The Government on its part will continue to actively engage with the overseas Indian community and explore all possible avenues to make them valued partners in the building of a strong and prosperous India," he said.

Ms. Ela Gandhi, the granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi, gave an acceptance speech, while vote of thanks was given by Mr. Manoj Kumar, who thanked the President, Mr. Prem Narain, awardees, delegates and FICCI for making this PBD successful and looked forward to meeting all again next year.



Awards



Ms. Senator Lisa Maria Singh

Ms. Senator Lisa Singh is the first member of the Australian Parliament of South Asian descent. Since entering politics, she has held various Ministerial portfolios. She is currently a Senator for Tasmania. She has been an advocate of culturally and linguistically diverse communities particularly the Indian and Fijian communities, in Australia and promoted Government policy that takes into account their needs. She has supported an expanded Australian overseas aid program, including projects in India, and worked with Indian NGOs on issues of health and workers' rights.

Ms. Senator Lisa Singh is recognised for her outstanding contributions in public service and fostering friendly relations between India and Australia.

Mr. Kurian Varghese

Mr. Kurian Verghese is a leading overseas Indian Businessman in Bahrain. He owns large number of companies in different fields such as construction, hospitality, healthcare, education, etc. in Gulf countries as well as in India. He has donated crores of rupees to various charities in Bahrain and India including

to homeless persons to build their own houses and for conducting marriages. He is a Director of INKEL (Infrastructure Kerala Ltd.) where he is the main shareholder.

Mr. Kurian Verghese is honoured for his contribution in the field of business for enhancing India's image and for promoting better understanding of India abroad.

Mr. Vasdev Chanchlani

Mr. Vasdev Chanchlani is an entrepreneur and philanthropist based in Canada. His initiatives revolve around education, research and persuasive public policy formulation and discourse. He has been at the forefront of advocacy for Canada's India centric policy changes.

Mr. Vasdev Chanchlani is recognised for his contributions in the field of business and public service and fostering ties between India and Canada and his efforts in promoting Indian culture and heritage.

Ramakrishna Mission

The Ramakrishna Mission has been serving the community in Fiji since 1937 and engaging in educational and charitable activities. Their relief and rehabilita-

tion work during natural disasters is well recognized. The work of the Mission has contributed to promoting human values and harmony, peace and non-violence.

The Ramkrishna Mission of Fiji is now honoured for their commitment to the community service and philanthropic activities and enhancing India's prestige abroad.

Mr. Bikas Chandra Sanyal

Mr. Bikas Chandra Sanyal is a renowned educationist in France. He has an outstanding record of contribution internationally in the field of higher education and culture. He has served the cause in different institutions in USA, UK and UNESCO. He has worked/conducted research and served in an advisory capacity on problems of higher education management in 77 countries of the world.

Mr. Bikas Chandra Sanyal is honoured for his contributions in the field of education and culture and enhancing India's image.

Mr. Satnarainsing Rabin Baldewsingh

Mr. Satnarainsing Rabin Baldewsingh is



a grandson of Indian worker in the former Dutch colony of Suriname. He is active in Dutch politics. He has successfully promoted multiculturalism and multi-ethnicity in The Hague and made significant contribution to promoting better understanding of India in The Netherlands. He has been Deputy Mayor of the Hague since 2008. He has written a novel in the Hindustani Surinamese language.

Mr. Satnarainsing Rabin Baldewsingh is recognized for his contributions in the field of public service and developing closer ties between India and South Africa.

Mr. Sasindran Muthuvel

Mr. Sasindran Muthuvel is first Member of Parliament of Indian origin in Papua New Guinea. His stated political vision is to ensure that wealth is distributed equally and everyone in his province has access to safe and healthy drinking water, free and fair education and to empower rural population with skills thus creating employment opportunities for all. He started a reputed trading company M/s. Hemamas Trading Ltd. in 2000.

Mr. Sasindran Muthuvel is honoured for his contributions in the field of public service.

Mr. Shihabudeen Vava Kunju

Mr. Shihabudeen Vava Kunju has been contributing to the welfare of Indian community in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) for past several years. His valuable and selfless work in resolving labour disputes, arranging shelter for the sick and disabled, repatriation of destitute Indian nationals and handling death cases have been recognized, appreciated and awarded by several organisations in India and abroad.

Mr. Shihabudeen Vava Kunju is honoured for his contributions in the field of community service and promoting ties

between India and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Ms. Ela Gandhi

Ms. Ela Gandhi is a granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi. She has been very active in public life in South Africa. She was a Member of Parliament in South Africa from 1994-2004 and involved in important parliamentary assignments. She chairs many Trusts and Committees which serve various public causes. She has contributed significantly to the cause of freedom in South Africa and was placed under house arrest in 1943 for five years. She has published two books on Gandhiji.

Ms. Ela Gandhi is honoured for her contributions in the field of public service, enhancing India's image and promoting ties between India and South Africa.

Dr. Shamsheer Vayalil Parambath

Dr. Shamsheer Vayalil Parambath has created a successful business empire while being equally concerned about community welfare and social responsibility. He started an integrated health-care group with operations in United Arab Emirates, Oman and India and has been actively involved with humanitarian and social projects which have benefited the communities across Middle East, India and North Africa.

Dr. Shamsheer Vayalil Parambath is recognized for his contributions in the field of healthcare business and in promoting better understanding of India in United Arab Emirates.

Mr. Shailesh Lakhman Vara

Mr. Shailesh Lakhman Vara is originally a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of England & Wales. He was first elected to British Parliament in 2010 and became first Indian origin Govt. Minister for the Conservative Party. He has advised former as well as current Prime Ministers in the

United Kingdom and also Leaders of the Conservative Party.

Mr. Shailesh Lakhman Vara is honoured for his eminence in the field of public service and in promoting ties between India and the people of U.K.

Dr. Parthasarathy Chiramel Pillai

Mr. Parthasarathy Chiramel Pillai has 34 years of teaching and scientific research experience in both academia and Government with over 75 research papers and abstracts to his credit. He played a key role in the mainstream politico-educational activity in the United States of America. He has advanced the Indo-US relations through all his undertakings/engagements including lobbying with the House of Representatives and Senators.

Mr. Parthasarathy Chiramel Pillai is recognized for his contributions in the field of science and for fostering closer relations between India and USA.

Ms. Renu Khator

Ms. Renu Khator has achieved several milestones as a leading figure among overseas Indians in the United States of America. She became one of the first Persons of Indian Origin to head a higher education system and a research university in America. She has promoted India's interests and Indo-US friendship and cooperation. As a leader in higher education, she has contributed to the welfare of thousands of Indian students studying in US and enhanced India's prestige. She is a member of the Prime Minister's Global Advisory Council for Overseas Indians.

Ms. Renu Khator is honoured for her contributions in the field of education and enhancing India's prestige abroad.





प्रवासी भारतीय कार्य मंत्रालय
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs
www.moia.gov.in



Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
Government of India

Youth

बारहवां

प्रवासी भारतीय दिवस

प्रवासी संबद्धता: पीढ़ियों का जुड़ना

७ - ९ जनवरी, २०१४, नई दिल्ली

Twelfth

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

Engaging Diaspora: Connecting Across Generations

7 - 9 January, 2014, New Delhi





Celebrating the spirit of youth

PBD 2014 sought to understand the aspirations and concerns of youth to develop synergies and utilise their energy to help India grow and find its rightful place in the community of nations



Calling for development of stronger ties between the Diaspora youth and young Indians, Shri Vayalar Ravi, Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs, said that such bonding will lead to creation of wealth and employment that will ultimately benefit the masses at large.

He stressed on the need for the Diaspora youth and young Indians to develop strong networks for partnership in trade, industry, entrepreneurship and social work. "Our goal should be to build a strong global connect of youth for this purpose" the Minister said while inaugurating the pre Pravasi Bharatiya Divas event, 'Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2014', organised by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) in partnership with the Ministry of Youth Affairs. The event was coordinated and managed by the Federation of Indian

Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

"MOIA has been in the forefront in engaging the youth Diaspora residing in various countries by introducing various schemes and projects like Know India Programme (KIP), Study India Programme (SIP) and Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC). These schemes and programmes have benefitted the Diaspora youth as well as the growth and development story of their mother country. It is our endeavor to further enrich and expand these programmes so that our young Diaspora continues to benefit and stay connected to their mother country," the Minister said.

On the occasion, Shri Ravi released a youth report, 'Realising the Dream of

a Progressive and Inclusive India - A Youth Perspective'. The report, prepared by FICCI, seeks to explore three distinct domains in which the Diaspora youth is engaging with India. It looks at the way the Indian labour market is transforming; explores the change in the outlook of youths who are increasingly seeing entrepreneurship as a viable career option; and examines the way young Indians are partnering with the Diaspora youth to develop voluntary organisations to enable an inclusive growth in the country.

Shri Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs & Sports and Minister of State for Defence, in his address announced that India was in the process of introducing a new National Youth Policy that seeks to empower the country's youth to achieve



SNAPSHOTS FROM PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS 2014



The proposed e-Migrate Project will transform the emigration process into simple, transparent, orderly and humane economic process. It would result in significant improvement in the quality of services to emigrant workers

Shri. Prem Narain

Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs



PBD could be opportunity for Indian youth to partner with NRI youth to develop not-for-profit institutions that are looking at ensuring that development transcends the limits defined by the economy and translates into improved social upliftment

Shri Jitendra Singh

Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs & Sports and the Minister of State for Defence



Our goal should be to build a strong global connect of youth for this purpose. Indian youth should develop strong networks for partnerships in trade, industry, entrepreneurship and social work

Shri Vayalar Ravi

Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs



Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is a great platform to provide opportunities to Indian youth to meet and interact with their overseas counterparts

Mr. Rajeev Gupta

Secretary, Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

their full potential. He said the new policy will focus on developing the youth into a productive work force by providing them the right education and skills and promoting entrepreneurship. Further, he said, the policy also aims to develop a strong and healthy generation through effective healthcare and promotion of a healthy lifestyle and sports; promoting social values and spirit of community service; effectively engaging with the youth and facilitating their participation in governance process and inclusive policies to take care of disadvantaged sections of youth and the youth with special needs.

“The Government of India through the new National Youth Policy also intends to promote ‘social entrepreneurship’ as an attractive employment proposition and to create an enabling policy regime for setting up of venture funds and provide angel investment that the social entrepreneurs require. This would facilitate setting up of social ventures in India by the overseas Indians,” Shri

Singh said.

In this context, he said that Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and National Service Scheme (NSS), the two youth volunteer networks with pan-India presence created by his ministry, can play a very crucial role. While NYKS has about 8 million non-student youth volunteers enrolled through about 2.80 lakh youth clubs across rural India, NSS has about 3.25 million student volunteers in senior secondary schools and colleges all over the country. These networks promote social values and the spirit of community service.

He acknowledged that resident and Non Resident Indian (NRI) youth are forming partnerships to create sustainable models of growth that can confront global challenges in the socio-economic sphere. Mr. Singh added that the Indian labour market is transforming itself with focus on education and skills. He also cited the reversal in migration trends, which is adding to the experience and

expertise available in this market.

Further, he said that the Indian youth is increasingly looking at entrepreneurship as a viable career choice and a number of experienced NRIs are now returning home to setup niche businesses, a fair chunk of which are based on innovative models and are being founded with a large social footprint.

He said that Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) offers an opportunity for the Indian youth to partner with the Diaspora youth to develop not-for-profit institutions to ensure that development transcends the limits defined by the economy and translates into improved social parameters for millions of underprivileged people in the country.

Shri Prem Narain, Secretary, MOIA, said that India would soon launch an internet-based project that would transform the emigration into a simple, transparent, orderly and humane process. The proposed e-Migrate Project would result in significant improvement in the qual-



ity of services to emigrant workers as it would simplify different processes in the emigration cycle and improve effectiveness, Mr. Narain said.

He added that social security agreements are also being worked upon with various countries to safeguard the interests of the Indian workers going abroad.

He said that events like the Youth PBD assume great significance in the light of a sizable number of Indian Diaspora youth getting an opportunity to connect and engage with each other to open new avenues of investment and trade

opportunities for India.

While delivering the vote of thanks, Mr. Rajeev Gupta, Secretary, Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, too stressed on the significance of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas as a strong platform to provide opportunities to the Indian youth to meet and interact with their overseas counterparts.

KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs will launch the e-Migrate project in 2014.

Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is working towards evolving a National Youth policy with a view to empowering the youth of the country to achieve their full potential.

Way forward: Plan PBD in such a way as to provide an opportunity to the Indian youth to partner with the Diaspora youth to develop not-for-profit institutions that result in an overall social upliftment.



Of Dreams and Aspirations

There is a lot that India can achieve by involving its exuberant Diaspora in its march to economic prosperity. But synergies must be created to understand their unique challenges and requirements



Our success is the product of our dreams and aspirations, said Dr. Renu Khator, the first woman Chancellor and President of University of Houston in the US state of Texas, in her address at the plenary session on aspirations of Diaspora youth.

“You should have a dream in your life, be it for yourself, your family, or your nation. Only then you can succeed,” said the first Indian immigrant to head a comprehensive research university in the US as she shared with the audience her struggles after she moved to the US from Farukhabad in Uttar Pradesh where she was born and bought up.

As chancellor of the University of Houston System, Dr. Khator oversees an organisation that serves more than 66,000 students, has a budget that exceeds \$1.3 billion, and has a \$3.5 billion-plus economic impact on the Greater Houston area each year.

Dr. Khator earned a bachelor’s degree at the University of Kanpur and was married to an Indian American at the age of 18. She not only overcame the problem posed by English language when she reached the US but went on to do her master’s degree and her Ph.D. in political science from Purdue University. She is a noted scholar in the field of global environmental policy and has published numerous books and articles on the subject.

“Life is not fair to most of us... Everybody gets tested, but leaders are made of what they do with their failures. It is up to you to become victim of circumstances or change the world. Passion will help you survive in most adverse of the circumstances. Take the people along, be humble and acknowledge the support of people who have been with you in your journey. It will keep you grounded,” Dr. Khator said in her inspirational address.

Dr. Charu Walikhanna, Member, National Commission of Women, in her speech discussed the aspirations of young Indian girls, especially from Punjab, Gujarat and Kerala, who get married to NRIs in the hope of leading a better life abroad but get cheated and face atrocities.

She shared with the gathering some shocking cases presented before the High Level Committee of National Commission of Women for Empowerment of

POLICY SUGGESTION

- Discrimination against PIO’s vis-à-vis NRI’s/OCIs must be addressed appropriately.
- Address the issue of down-linking problems in other countries with respect to Doordarshan International.



SNAPSHOTS FROM PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS 2014



PBD should evolve a non-formal connect in an unstructured manner to allow the youth across the world to connect with one another seamlessly

Mr. Manish Tewari

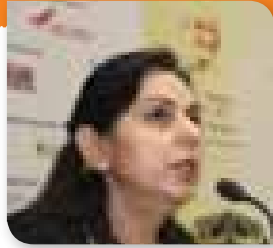
Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Information & Broadcasting



Passion will help you survive in most adverse of the circumstances. Take the people along, be humble and acknowledge the support of people who have been with you in your journey

Dr. Renu Khator

Chancellor, University of Houston System and President, University of Houston



We need to set examples by just not being successful by hard work but also by sincerity and respect to our fellow humans

Dr. Charu WaliKhanna

Member, National Commission for Women



It is very important for India and youth diaspora to reach out to each other, to prevent loss of cultural heritage amongst the future generations of PIOs settled abroad

Ms. Kirty Vedika

Matabadal
Netherlands

NRI Women/Indian Girls. She said that MoIA and NCW have jointly established an NRI Cell to help deal with the cheating and fraud marriage cases abroad. She urged the Indian Diaspora not to force their children into marrying Indian girls with whom their dreams and aspirations do not match. "We need to set examples not just by being successful and hard work but also by showing sincerity and respect to our fellow humans," Dr. Walikhanna said.

Kirty Matabadal, the Dutch youth representative to the United Nations, in her address raised the concern of identity crisis amongst NRIs and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs). She said there is a lot that India can achieve by involving its exuberant Diaspora.

Ms Matabadal stressed that the Diaspora youth want to connect with India. Their heart is Indian, even though they are born and brought up in different countries, she said, adding that PIOs face confused nationality problem as the nation they are living as well as India do not treat them as their own.

It is very important for India and the Diaspora youth to reach out to each other to prevent loss of cultural heritage amongst the future generations of PIOs settled abroad, Ms. Matabadal said. "MOIA should invest in good relations with PIO youngsters, as they feel India is a part of them, no matter where they live. It is important to mobilize required resources to connect Diaspora youth as global citizens of rapidly changing world."

She narrated her personal experiences of discrimination when she had applied for a visa at the Indian embassy while coming to India for PBD. Highlighting the issues faced by PIOs, Ms. Matabadal said that PIOs have to undergo a lot of harassment and paperwork for visa clearances if they have to travel to India. "It deters them from coming here. There should be easing of visa norms for PIOs and NRIs, and probably they can have an Indian passport too," she added.

Besides, she said, Diaspora should not only connect with India but also create a strong network amongst themselves

to utilise global opportunities and contribute to India's growth story through their experiences and knowledge. She recommended engaging youngsters at the decision making level.

The aspirations of Diaspora youth and resident Indians were articulated by Mr. Manish Tewari, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Information and Broadcasting. He said that while border control, visa regulations and immigration formalities were some of the impediments in connecting the global youth, it cannot be denied that the internet has enabled them to become a part of the global conversation. The internet represents the largest ungoverned space on earth and every two days more data is produced on it than since the dawn of civilization to the year 2000, he said. "This technology has given rise to a virtual civilisation that allows young people to connect with others with similar aspirations around the world."

He said during his overseas travel he has discovered that the younger generation has common aspirations – to make a



life for themselves and make the world a better place to live in. PBD should evolve an informal structure to allow the Diaspora youth across the world to connect with one another seamlessly, he suggested.

Mr. Tiwari said that Prasar Bharati has launched Doordarshan International to help Diaspora stay connected with the home land. He said that broadcasting arrangements are being made with a number of countries and there has been

a good progress on this front in some African countries which will be replicated in other countries as well.

Key issues raised by the participants:

- Corruption is insidious in India, particularly in private banking sector; a lot of NRI and PIO who send their hard earned money to India are befooled.
- Safety of women was another con-

cern that was raised.

- MOIA has schemes for PIOs/NRIs in Indian institutions. However, education for PIO and NRI who are not Indian citizens should be similarly priced as for Indians. There should be a quota of scholarships for deserving candidates.
- Use Doordarshan to create a connection with the Diaspora.



The connect is emotional

In the face of ethnic assertions growing louder by the day, the Indian Diaspora looks at food, films, trade, religion, Gandhian ideology and yoga to bind together



As part of the Youth PBD, the session 'Sharing a Common Heritage: The Emotional Connect' was moderated by Dr. Vidya Yeravdekar, Principal Director-Symbiosis Society. The speakers were drawn from fields as diverse as cinema, politics, media and business. Yeravdekar, who worked in Muscat and Oman before joining Symbiosis, voiced her concerns over the insecurity faced by many Indians settled abroad. "Will my children be connected (with India)?" Dr. Yeravdekar asked as she explained the dilemma faced by many Diaspora parents.

"A vast majority of Indians working or settled overseas make all possible attempts to initiate their children to the culture and heritage of their country of origin by educating them to imbibe the wisdom scripted in Indian holy books," Dr. Yeravdekar said. This effort was made to remove the rising cultural insecurity amongst Indian children, she added while making her observations on the issue of emotional connect.

Dr. Yeravdekar suggested that Indian universities should have programmes to provide for establishing cultural linkages with overseas Indians.

She also said that Indian films were influencing not just Indian Diaspora but also other people across Asia Pacific. She cited an example that how a foreign student wanted to have his picture clicked with Bollywood star Salman Khan during a six-month-long on and off shoot of Hindi film 'Bodyguard' on the Symbiosis campus.

The Principal Director of Symbiosis said the 4-6 weeks of Study India Programme for the Diaspora youth was a successful experiment as it helps them assimilate the culture of India in Indian settings.

Meghna Ghai Puri, President of Whistling Woods International and daughter of Bollywood director, producer and screenwriter Subhash Ghai, held forth the view that the cinema was the biggest emotional connect for Diaspora.

"India is flourishing in enterprise particularly in media and entertainment," she said, adding that cinema and television were doing an excellent job in keeping the Diaspora connected with India. The religious places were equally significant to provide for convergence for the Diaspora, she added.

"Indian (way of) story telling is instantly recognised," noted Ms. Puri. The film training institute, according to her, gets 15 percent of its students from abroad out of which one-third are Indians settled abroad.

"Our cinema connects with the Indian Diaspora through colours, culture and style of story-telling... India's soft power is growing. Good education is the most important investment this country requires, particularly in the media and entertainment sector," she said.

Subhash Razdan, Chairman of The Gandhi Foundation in the US, spoke on the relevance of Gandhian ideals outside In-



SNAPSHOTS FROM PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS 2014



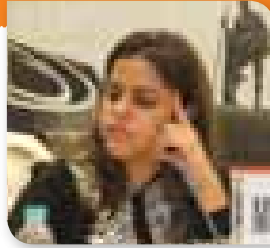
Indian films were influencing not just Indian diaspora but also other people across Asia Pacific

Dr. Vidya Yeravdekar
Principal Director,
Symbiosis



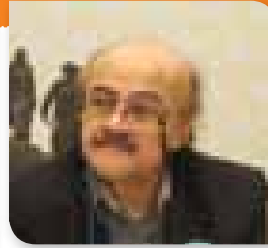
China is one of the exceptions where the presence of Indians is thinning very fast barring the fields of medicines and yoga teaching. With rising economic engagements between India and China, the number looks set to grow

Ms. Pallavi Aiyar
Indonesian Correspondent,
The Hindu



Our cinema connects Indian diaspora through colour, culture and story telling style Indian movies make self-sufficient businesses

Ms. Meghna Ghai Puri
President, Whistling
Woods International



Be the change and create and commit a partnership, address educational constraints, health issues and strengthen family rise

Mr. Subash Razdan
Chairman, The Gandhi
Foundation of USA



We (the Indian Diaspora and people in India) can collaborate on skill development, water resources and solar energy etc

Dr. Jagvinder Singh Virk
Chairman, GOPIO
Australia Business Council

dia. He felt that Indians settled abroad should pour funds to support the primary and secondary education in India and spread awareness on subjects related to environment and climate change in the developing world.

Mr. Razdan said that the Diaspora youth is heading for a global citizenship as the differences are getting eroded owing to better connectivity and social media.

He cited issues like lack of primary education in India's remote areas, lack of funds, gender issues, lack of vaccines and poor sanitation impacting health care in India and problems related to migration and racism in certain countries that affect the youth.

He argued that change is possible by creating global partnerships through sharing of knowledge and information to address educational, health and climate constraints and strengthening family values.

Pallavi Aiyar, the correspondent of The Hindu in Indonesia, focused her atten-

tion on the reasons behind the Indian media's reluctance in covering South East Asia and China. She spoke about Indian Diaspora in China, Europe and Indonesia. She pointed out that China is one of the exceptions where the presence of Indians is thinning very fast barring in the fields of medicine and yoga teaching. But with rising economic engagements between India and China, this trend would get reversed in the future, she said.

"Today diamond market in Antwerp is controlled by India's Gujarati community. People have to learn to assimilate the culture of the adopted country," she said.

Jagvinder Singh Virk, Chairman, GOPIO Business Council and a politician in Australia, defended his country of adoption against the allegation of racial biasness for Indian students. Dr. Singh said that India and Australia share enthusiasm for Commonwealth, Cricket and Curry. According to Dr. Singh, the Australian government always supported building of religious places to enable migrants to stay connected with their country of origin.

He said that linkages can be established between India and Australia in areas like defence technology, solar technology, coastal area development and skill development.

Domain experts propose Know India and Study India programmes in Indian Universities for Diaspora students to strengthen their cultural bonding with India



Drivers of a Resurgent India

The new generation of Indians is unique in its single-minded approach to success and achievement. Their initiative to take up social issues to bring about a change in society can be a positive sign for a resurgent India



Mr. Naveen Jindal, Member of Parliament, emphatically acknowledged the participation of Indian Diaspora in India's success story. The moderator of the session on young achievers said that in the recent years young Indians have shown remarkable progress in their respective areas of work. "Every generation has its own defining qualities. The generation that came of age in the 21st century is marked by its single-minded quest for success and achievement," he said, adding that there has been an upsurge in young talent and a dramatic increase in their accomplishments on international platforms.

Highlighting some of the issues faced by the young Diaspora, he said, creating an enabling environment is required for the youth to succeed. Measures need to be taken to improve the skills of Indian young population and also ensure that their skills are at par with the global standards.

As a young leader, Ms. Supriya Sule, Member of Parliament, believes that there

has been a change in the attitude of the youth in India, as now they are not only concerned about themselves but for the welfare of society at large. She said that many students have taken up social issues and are now working towards bringing about a change in the Indian society.

The young MP said that PBD was a platform that provides India with an opportunity to showcase its achievements but the country is still struggling with various social problems such as gender issues. "The need is to make India a fair and equal society," she said, adding that the evil of dowry is still prevalent in many parts of the country but now the women are raising their voice and expressing their desire to settle with a man who treats them equally. Security of women was another issue which she highlighted at the session.

Ms. Sule was of the opinion that such social challenges could not be met only through policy interventions but need a

change of perception at individual level.

Mr. P Rajeev, Member of Parliament, highlighted the role played by Diaspora in the growth of Indian economy and suggested that more needed to be done by India on this front. He said that the remittances from the Diaspora are higher than the FDI in India but the country needs a policy to attract more remittances. Also, remittances should be used for investment purpose which is not happening at the moment. He said that the economies of many countries have developed due to the strength of their Diaspora, hence India should also have specific policies to push forward this agenda.

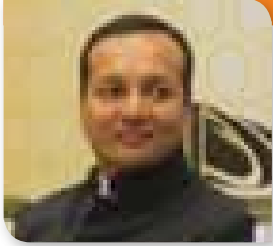
He also highlighted the following points:

1. 50% of migrants to the Gulf region are women;
2. In Kerala, 10% of the population looks for greener pastures abroad, out of which 90% head for the Gulf;
3. In Kerala, remittances from NRI form 31% of the State Domestic Product (SDP);
4. One-third of bank accounts in Kerala belong to NRIs;
5. Out of 100 households in Kerala 44 households have either NRI or retain-er NRI;
6. Amount of remittances from NRIs is higher than money attracted by FDI;
7. Of the one dollar coming to manufacturing in India, 68 cents go abroad

Dr. Mamta Singhvi, Managing Director



SNAPSHOTS FROM PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS 2014



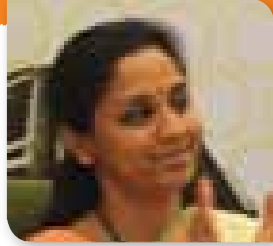
Pravasi Diaspora has helped enormously to exposure to institutional development of India

Mr. Naveen Jindal
Member of Parliament



Information and education will be the key factor for development than capital in future

Mr. K.C. Venugopal
Minister of State for Civil Aviation



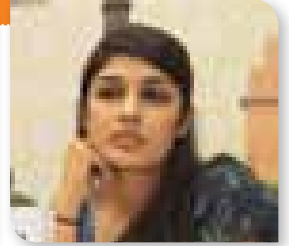
India is still lagging behind complex issues such as gender discrimination and domestic violence

Ms. Supriya Sule
Member of Parliament



One third of bank accounts in Kerala are NRI deposits. Out of 100 households in Kerala 44 households have either NRI or retainer NRI. Amount of Remittance from NRI is higher than money attracted by FDI

Mr. P. Rajeev
Member of Parliament



There is a need for more and better vaccination schemes in India and I encourage the Indian diaspora to help in this regard

Dr. Mamta Singhvi
Managing Director & Past President, American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI), USA

and Past President, American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI), US, sharing her experiences said that understanding one's heritage, history and family develops confidence in a person.

A person should always stick to principles, no matter what the situation is, Dr. Singhvi said, adding that she became one of the youngest Presidents of the AAPI by following her principles.

"Young people have the creativity and the energy to solve many of our society's most difficult problems and they have already embarked on this journey," said Dr. Singhvi, who is working on a mission to eradicate cervical cancer. She emphasised on the need for more and better vaccination schemes in India and encouraged the Indian Diaspora to extend all possible help in this regard. She also pointed out the potential for medical tourism in India.

Dr. Ruby Dhalla, a Canadian Politician, spoke about infinite possibilities of the Diaspora shaping the destiny of India.

Dr. Dhalla said that India has a big pool of talented young individuals but because of lack of education facilities and employment opportunities they are looking for avenues outside the country.

She said the youth should be encouraged to believe that there are opportunities available in the country, for which education is the key. Mentorship programmes can be created to boost the confidence of these young individuals, she suggested.

Indian business community can look at options and possibilities of mentoring new and budding entrepreneurs."

She also highlighted the change ushered in by the youth in India. She said that right attitude, belief and courage were important virtues to be adopted by the youth for success. Stressing that the youth are future assets for the Indian economy, she called upon the policy makers to make sure that belief of youths is maintained and nurtured.

Mr. K.C. Venugopal, Minister of State for Civil Aviation, underlined the Government's commitment to improve the travel experience of the youngsters who search for greener pastures across the world.

"Air India is indebted to the overseas Indians and always offers you the opportunity to fly you around. The national carrier had a bad time combating with debts. But now we are regaining the ground. We are happy that the improved customer confidence is being reflected in the bookings as well."



Policy makers needs to make sure that belief of youths is maintained and nurtured, they need to be encouraged to be the asset of future economy by taking out measures to motivate their believe in them and the services

Dr. Ruby Dhalla
Canadian Politician



On the steps taken by his ministry to address certain concerns about the performance of Air India Express, the low cost carrier from Air India Group, he said: “Air India Express is specially designed to service the Gulf countries. The process of empowering Air India Express as an independent business entity is progressing. We have rolled out many initiatives to make Air India Express complaint free. We have also increased our services to the Gulf sector, and its performance is being monitored at the apex level to ensure customer satisfaction. To hear from the NRIs personally about their concerns about Air India Express, I started a mail service too.”

Mr. Venugopal said that every generation of NRIs has its own specific opportunities and challenges. However, the new generation of NRIs, especially those in the Middle East, has relatively lesser problems in terms of socio-cultural amalgamation.

He suggested that new economic policies should be instituted by the government in not only helping in instituting more Public Private Partnerships (PPP) with the Diaspora but also a more friendly investment schemes for the overseas Indian community. He said that in future information and education will be the key factors for development instead of capital.

“The second generation of Diaspora is the ambassador of a resurgent India, which has opened its doors for the world. Ambition, innovation and management expertise in international trade are the trademarks of a successful young Indian. They have enhanced footsteps of Indian business across the world. Even in Kerala,

we have many such young investors who ventured to go out from their middle class houses in small towns to international business hotspots,” the Minister said.

He, however, added that “the expectation levels and competencies of new generation NRIs are manifold compared to their predecessors. They deserve more handholding and enabling policies by the Indian Government. It is a fact that there are initiatives to motivate the young investors back home in India. But I do believe that we have to expand our net so that a government umbrella for Young Overseas Indians can be set up. Such a body will have to extract data regarding investment potential in each sector, may tie up prospective cash flow for various PPP models, may ensure single window clearance for NRI investments, etc.”

The long cultural exchange and bartering between the countries have set the soil ready for larger acceptance of young Indians.

He stressed on India’s commitment to provide its Diaspora opportunities abroad, Mr. Venugopal said, “As a country and a responsible government we are committed to provide young Indians similar opportunities elsewhere, so that they can confidently invest in India. It is high time that we develop our own engineering research and reduce dependency on borrowed technologies. In this liberalised economy we can afford to integrate R&D into the prime business of Indian companies. The companies also need to promote the synergy between industry and education.”

Key suggestions and recommendations:

- Expand the net to cover more people with equitable access to services and information and education;
- Single window investment clearance for NRI;
- Focus on R&D, research and education;
- Synergy between industry and academia;
- Need to adopt best practices on quality improvement and enhancement of services
- Focus on information and education instead of capital
- An NRI delegation from the gulf region submitted before the Minister a memorandum to reduce air fare for the Gulf region.

Other important concerns included:

- Issue of absentee voting for NRIs;
- Getting local address printed on OCI cards so that they can avail more business opportunities in India;
- Price rationalisation in Air India ticketing, especially on the flights going to the Gulf countries.



Useful Insights

The synergy created between India and its Diaspora should be directed by the core principle of inclusive prosperity and driven by innovation and technology. It is in this context that the energy of youth needs to be leveraged



The various sessions organised as part of the Youth PBD provided useful insights into India's emergence as a youthful nation where approximately 50 percent of the working population falls in the age group of 18-35 years and emerging trends, issues and challenges faced by the Diaspora. The deliberations were focused on finding ways to remove various hurdles to utilise the experience and knowledge of the Diaspora youth to build an inclusive and economically sound future for the country.

Mr. Sachin Pilot, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Corporate Affairs, applauded the contribution of NRIs and PIOs in deepening economic and business engagements of India with the rest

of the world. He expressed gratitude to the Indian Diaspora for enhancing India's foreign remittances kitty to the level of US\$ 80 billion.

The vast presence of Indian Diaspora in the US and other parts of the world inspired and encouraged India to successfully conclude this deal which has already accelerated India's economic engagements with the United States, which will only deepen in the years to come, he said.

Bilateral and multilateral relations of India have multiplied with many countries across the world in the recent past especially with nations where the Indian Diaspora is in a position to influence

government policies. Mr. Pilot urged the Indian Diaspora to do their best to promote "India and Indianness" in their host countries.

Mr. Ashok Tanwar, Member of Parliament, observed that the voting rights should be given to all NRIs and PIOs, especially those residing in the Gulf and urged the authorities to favourably consider the issue of grant of dual citizenship. The MP appreciated the contributions of NRIs and PIOs in strengthening the Indian economy by way of increased remittances which has helped contain the current account deficit of the country.

Mr. Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi, Member of



SNAPSHOTS FROM PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS 2014



I urge the Indian diaspora present here to do their best to promote India and Indianness in their host countries

Mr. Sachin Pilot

*Minister of State
(Independent Charge)
of Corporate Affairs*



There has been a 48% jump in Indian diaspora population in New Zealand. Hindi is the fourth largest spoken language in New Zealand

Mr. Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi

*Member of Parliament,
National Party, New
Zealand*



Voting rights should be given to all NRIs and PIOs, especially those residing in the Gulf and urged the authorities to favourably consider the issue of grant of dual citizenship

Mr. Ashok Tanwar

Member of Parliament

Parliament, National Party, New Zealand, observed that he migrated in the year 2008 to the country with a dream to become the first MP of Indian origin and represents the youth of New Zealand in parliament. There has been a 48% jump in Indian diaspora population in New Zealand, he said, adding that Hindi is now the fourth largest spoken language in New Zealand. "Sir Edmund Hillary, former New Zealand High Commissioner to India, has enabled to establish strong ties with India, and recently Rahul Gandhi was honoured with Sir Edmund Hillary fellowship for inspiring excellence, all round development and leadership.

He said the youth must dream big. "Mean age of Indian population is likely to be 29 years by 2020. Youth is the hope of the nation. Energy of the youth needs to be put to good use," Mr. Bakshi said. He added that the Youth Fund and Youth Ministry has been playing a significant role in harnessing the energy of the youth in New Zealand. "It is important to give them a positive attitude about their future by providing necessary skills, education and training," he said.



Suggestions at PBD 2014

1. Indian universities should initiate Know India and Study India programmes for their diaspora students to strengthen their bonding with the country.
2. The Indian diaspora should make attempts to connect with youth volunteer networks like Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan and National Service Scheme to reach out to India youth.
3. A scheme to enable the diaspora whereby they could adopt schools in villages in India may be considered.
4. India has great potential in medical tourism and that those in the Government in synergy with those concerned in the diaspora should do more to make it a success story.
5. Like the Irish and Chinese diaspora who became the chief contributors in the growth and innovation in their domestic economy, the Indian diaspora too could work as pioneers of innovation and help in the growth of India and its people.
6. PBD should evolve a non-formal connect in an unstructured manner to allow the youth across the world to connect with one another seamlessly.
7. Discrimination against PIO's vis-à-vis NRI's/OCI's must be addressed appropriately.
8. Address the issue of down-linking problems in other countries with respect to Doordarshan International.
9. Making provision for getting local address printed on OCI cards so that they can avail more business opportunities in India.
10. Issue of price rationalisation in ticketing in Air India especially on the flights going to Gulf countries.
11. Malaysia's Minister invited the Indian Institutes of Technology to set up branch campuses in Malaysia and more Indian banks to establish their branches in the country.
12. Various people from other countries wanted business bodies like the FICCI to have a chapter in their respective countries for better business interaction.
13. Participation of NRIs in capital market needs to be encouraged.
14. Indian Government should negotiate with the countries abroad to facilitate seamless release and exhibition of Indian films there.
15. India to create a Ministry of Alerts so that qualified unemployed work force gets to know about jobs.
16. Question of refugees, economic refugees, especially from Punjab to be addressed.
17. As diplomats and Foreign Service officers are promoters of soft power, Indian Governments needs to increase staff strengths in the foreign offices.
18. There should be a representation of youth in PMGAC.
19. There should be measures



to upgrade Indian Missions as they also contribute to enhance soft power of the country.

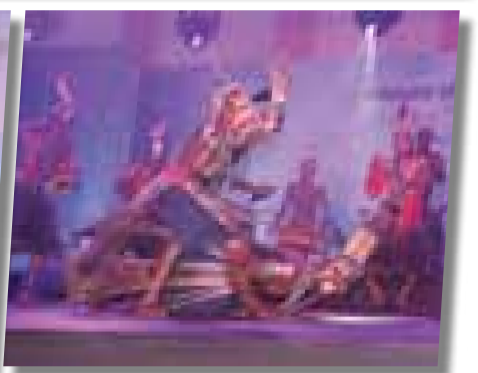
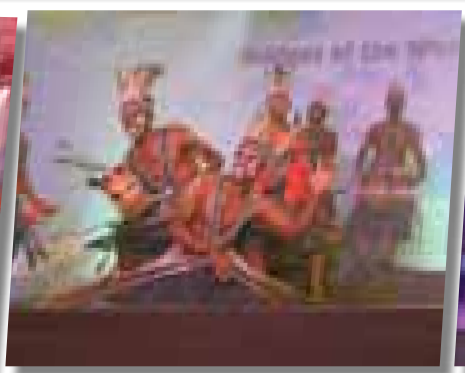
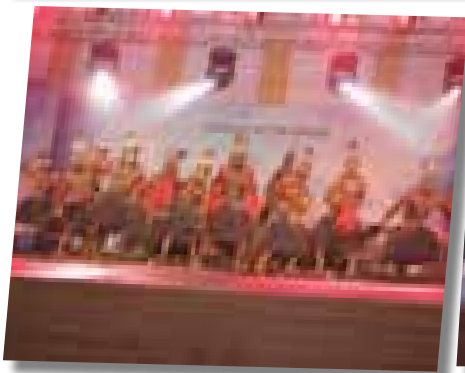
20. Indian Government could take steps for Skill Development in Competencies for job roles.
21. Government of India may come up with a report to update the figures/statistics of Indian diaspora in various countries.
22. MOUs to work with other diaspora organisations and cooperate to resolve issues.
23. Pay close attention to issues of Indian diaspora in Gulf.
24. TV Channel for PIO.
25. Social networking for Indian diaspora.
26. Visa on arrival.
27. Indian Government should come out with collaborative research project on World Labour or Indentures.

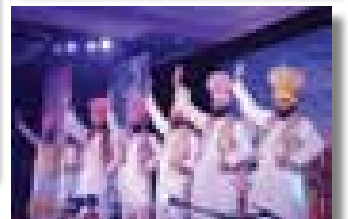


The three-day PBD 2014 featured an exhibition- spanning an area over 3200 sq.mtrs - with 13 Indian States and 90 companies putting up impressive-looking stalls. Shri Vayalar Ravi, Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs and Shri Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs & Sports inaugurated the exhibition. PBD 2014 exhibition gave a good opportunity to delegates attending the event to have meaningful interaction and obtain first hand information on participating companies. Various state Government departments including Tourism, IT Mission, Handicrafts, among others had set up stalls, detailing various schemes and investment opportunities















TWELFTH PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS

7-9 January, 2014

PROGRAMME : Day 1

1015 – 1100 Hrs	Inaugural Session of Youth PBD
	Lighting of Lamp
Welcome Address	Shri Prem Narain Secretary , Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs
Address	Shri Jitendra Singh Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs & Sports and the Minister of State for Defence Release of Report on Youth
Address	Shri Vayalar Ravi Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs
Vote of Thanks	Shri Rajeev Gupta Secretary, Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
1100 – 1130 Hrs	Break
1130 – 1300 Hrs	Plenary Session of Youth PBD –Aspirations of Diaspora Youth
Chairperson	Shri Manish Tewari Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Information & Broadcasting
Address	Dr. Renu Khator Chancellor, University of Houston System and President, University of Houston
	Dr. Charu WaliKhanna Member, National Commission for Women
	Ms. Kirty Vedika Matabadal Netherlands
1300 – 1400 Hrs	Lunch
1400 – 1600 Hrs	Concurrent Session 1 – Sharing a Common Heritage : The Emotional Connect
Moderator	Dr. Vidya Yeravdekar Principal Director, Symbiosis
Address	Ms. Pallavi Aiyar Indonesian Correspondent, The Hindu
	Ms. Meghna Ghai Puri President, Whistling Woods International



	Shri Subash Razdan Chairman, The Gandhi Foundation of USA
	Dr. Jagvinder Singh Virk Chairman, GOPIO Australia Business Council
1400 – 1600 Hrs	Concurrent Session 2 – Young Achievers
Moderator	Shri Naveen Jindal Member of Parliament
Keynote Address	Shri K.C. Venugopal Minister of State for Civil Aviation
Address	Ms. Supriya Sule Member of Parliament
	Shri P. Rajeev Member of Parliament
	Dr. Mamta Singhvi Managing Director & Past President, American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI), USA
	Dr. Ruby Dhalla Canadian Politician
1600 – 1630 Hrs	Break
1630 – 1800 Hrs	Concluding Session
Chairperson	Shri. Sachin Pilot Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Corporate Affairs
Address	Shri Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi Member of Parliament, National Party, New Zealand
	Shri Ashok Tanwar Member of Parliament
1900 – 2000 Hrs	Cultural Programme



PROGRAMME : Day 2

0930 Hrs onwards	Inaugural Session
0930 Hrs	Lighting of Lamp
0932 Hrs	Introduction of Awardees, Photographs
0942 Hrs	Welcome Speech by Shri Vayalar Ravi Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs
0950 Hrs	Speech by Chief Guest Datuk Seri. G. Palanivel Minister of Natural Resources and Environment and President of the Malaysian Indian Congress
1000 Hrs	Release of Book by Prime Minister ("Incredible Opportunities Back Home")
1002 Hrs	Inaugural Address by Dr. Manmohan Singh Hon'ble Prime Minister
1015 Hrs	Vote of Thanks Shri Prem Narain Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs
1015 -1045 Hrs	Break
1045 – 1300 Hrs	Plenary Session 1 – India's Growth and Development Agenda
Moderator	Shri Sam Pitroda Advisor to PM on Public Information, Infrastructure & Innovation
Address	Shri Kamal Nath Minister of Urban Development & Parliamentary Affairs
	Shri Anand Sharma Minister of Commerce and Industry
	Shri Sidharth Birla President , FICCI
	Dr. G. Mohan Gopal Director, Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies



1300 – 1400 Hrs	Lunch
1400 – 1600 Hrs	Plenary Session 2 – India’s Soft Power
Chairperson	Shri Salman Khurshid Minister of External Affairs
Keynote Address	Shri Kapil Sibal Minister of Communications & Information Technology and the Minister of Law & Justice
Address	Smt Chandresh Kumari Katoch Minister for Culture
	Dr. K. Chiranjeevi Film actor, Producer and Politician
	Lord Karan Bilimoria CBE DL
1600 – 1630 Hrs	PBD Oration – ‘Reflections on the Diaspora Experience’
PBD Oration	Shri Ujjal Dosanjh, PC, QC Former Member of the Canadian House of Commons
1630 – 1700 Hrs	Break
1900 – 2030 Hrs	Cultural Programme



PROGRAMME : Day 3

0930 – 1130 Hrs	Investment Opportunities in States (On Dais: HMOIA)
Moderator	Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission
Address	Shri Oommen Chandy Chief Minister, Kerala
	Shri Bhupinder Singh Hooda Chief Minister, Haryana
	Shri Narendra Modi Chief Minister, Gujarat
	Dr. Mukul Sangma Chief Minister, Meghalaya
1130 – 1200 Hrs	Break
1200 – 1330 Hrs	Separate Parallel State Sessions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bihar • Gujarat • Kerala • Punjab • Rajasthan
1330 – 1430 Hrs	Lunch
1430 – 1600 Hrs	Concurrent Session 1 - Innovation and Technology
Moderator	Dr. A. Didar Singh Secretary General , FICCI
Address	Shri Subramanian Ramadorai Chairman, National Skill Development Agency (NSDA)
	Professor Prasad Yarlagadda Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane Australia
	Shri Birendra (Raj) Dutt, PhD Chairman & CEO of APIC Corp. and PhotonIC Corp
1430 – 1600 Hrs	Concurrent Session 2 – Healthcare Opportunities in India



Moderator	Ms. Sangita Reddy Executive Director, Apollo Hospitals
Keynote Address	Ms. Santosh Chaudhry Minister of State, Health and Family Welfare
Address	Dr. Jayesh B. Shah, MD President, AAPI, USA
	Dr. Ashok Seth Chairman, Fortis Escorts Hearts Institute
	Dr. Nandini Tandon Vice Chair & Board Member, El Camino Hospital, Silicon Valley
	Shri E.M Najeeb Executive Director, Kerala Institute of Management Sciences
1430 – 1600 Hrs	Concurrent Session 3 – Meeting of Diaspora Organizations
Moderator	Shri T.P. Sreenivasan, IFS (Retd) Former Ambassador
Address	Dato' Seri Utama S. Samy Vellu Special Envoy (Ministerial rank) for Infrastructure to India and South Asia, Prime Minister's Department, Government of Malaysia
	Shri Mahyendra Utchanah Chairman, Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund, Mauritius
	Shri Ashook Ramsaran President, GOPIO, USA
	Lord Diljit Singh Rana Member, House of Lords, UK
	Shri Naval Bajaj President, Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce
	Shri Adv. Y.A. Rahim President, Indian Association Sharjah
	Shri K. Kumar Convenor, Indian Community Welfare Committee (ICWC), Dubai, UAE



1430 – 1600 Hrs	Concurrent Session 4 – Making India the Hub of the Media and Entertainment Industry
Moderator	Shri Vikram Chandra CEO, NDTV
Keynote Address	Dr. Kamal Haasan Film-maker, Producer, Actor
Address	Shri Ramesh Sippy Film Director
	Ms. Anuradha Prasad Chairperson & Managing Director, B.A.G. Films & Media Limited
	Shri Munish Gupta Chairman and Managing Editor, PIO TV Pvt. Ltd
1430 – 1600 Hrs	Concurrent Session 5 – Issues of NRI's in the Gulf
Chairperson	Shri E. Ahamed Minister of State for External Affairs
Keynote Address	Shri Oommen Chandy Chief Minister of Kerala
Special Address	Shri K.C. Joseph Minister for Rural Development, Planning, Culture and NORKA, Kerala
Address	Shri M.A. Yusuff Ali Managing Director, EMKE Group & Vice- Chairman, NORKA ROOTS
	Dr. B. Ravi Pillai Chairman and Managing Director, R.P. Group of Companies
	Shri C K Menon Chairman, Behzad Group of Companies
	Shri J.R Gangaramani President & Executive Chairman, Al Fara's Group
Special Invitees	Indian Ambassadors to all GCC countries
1600 – 1630 Hrs	Break
1700 – 1800 Hrs	Valedictory Session and Conferment of Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards (On Dais: The President of India, HMOIA, Secretary MOIA)
	National Anthem
Welcome Address	Shri Prem Narain Secretary, MOIA
Address	Shri Vayalar Ravi Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs



	Conferment of Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards
Acceptance Speech	Ms. Ela Gandhi
Valedictory Address	Shri Pranab Mukherjee President of India
Vote of Thanks	Shri Manoj Kumar Joint Secretary (DS), Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs
	National Anthem
	Group Photograph
1900 – 2030 Hrs	Cultural Programme







बारहवां

प्रवासी भारतीय दिवस

प्रवासी संबद्धता: पीढ़ियों का जुड़ना

 ७ - ९ जनवरी, २०१४, नई दिल्ली

Twelfth

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

 Engaging Diaspora: Connecting Across Generations

 7 - 9 January, 2014, New Delhi

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