



Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

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Why in News

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is celebrated on **9th January every year** to mark the contribution of **Overseas Indian community** in the development of India.

On the occasion, several events such as **PBD Convention, Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award** and **Bharat ko Janiye Quiz** are organised.

Key Points

- **Background:**

9th January was chosen as the day to celebrate PBD since it was **on this day in 1915 that Mahatma Gandhi, the greatest Pravasi, returned to India from South Africa**, led India's freedom struggle and changed the lives of Indians forever.

- **PBD Conventions:** These are held once every two years.
 - **PBD 2021:** The 16th PBD Convention was held virtually in New Delhi. The theme was "**Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat**".
 - **Chief Guest:** President of Suriname Chandrikapersad Santokhi.
 - **Highlights:**
 - **Response to the Pandemic:**
 - Despite dependence on critical things like PPE kits, masks, ventilators or testing kits, India developed its capabilities not only to become self-reliant but started exporting many things.
 - India's drugs regulator has **approved** the Oxford Covid-19 vaccine **Covishield**, manufactured by the Serum Institute, and **indigenously developed Covaxin** of Bharat Biotech for restricted emergency use in the country.
 - **Use of Technology:**
 - India is using technology to **end corruption (Direct Benefit Transfer)**.
 - Further, **India's space programme** and **tech start-up ecosystem** is a leader in the global sphere.
 - **Recent Initiatives:**
 - Including **New Education Policy 2020** and **Production Linked Subsidies Scheme**.
 - **Initiatives for Indian Diaspora:**
 - **Vande Bharat Mission**, in which more than 45 lakh Indians were rescued during Corona times.
 - **Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support (SWADES)**, an initiative for returning immigrants from the Gulf and other areas.
 - **Global Pravasi Rishta Portal** for better connectivity and communication with the Pravasi Bharatiyas.
 - **75th Anniversary of India's Freedom (2021):**
 - The Prime Minister **asked the members of the diaspora** and people in Indian Missions world over to prepare a portal, a digital platform where contribution of the Pravasi Bharatiyas in the freedom struggle of India can be documented.

- **Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award:**
 - It is the **highest honour conferred on a Non-Resident Indian, Person of Indian Origin;** or an organisation or **institution established and run by Non-Resident Indians** or Persons of Indian Origin, who have made significant contribution in better understanding of India abroad, support India's causes and concerns in a tangible way, community work abroad, welfare of local Indian community, philanthropic and charitable work, etc.
 - During the PBD convention, select eminent Indian diaspora members are awarded the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards in the presence of the President of India.
 - **30 Winners of the 2021 Award:** Including **Suriname President Chandrikapersad Santokhi, Curacao Prime Minister Eugene Rhuggenaath** and **New Zealand minister Priyanca Radhakrishnan.**
- **Third Edition Bharat ko Janiye Quiz (2021):**
 - It was **launched in 2015-16** in order to **strengthen the engagement with young overseas Indians (18-35)** and encourage them to know more about their country of origin.
 - The first edition was held in 2015-16 and the second one in 2018-19.
 - **Fifteen winners** of the Quiz were announced during the PBD convention and **will be invited for an India Tour** (Bharat ko Janiye Darshan) after Covid.

Source:PIB