



## Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

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### Why in News

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**Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)** is celebrated on **9<sup>th</sup> 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

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- **Background:**

**9<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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.
    - **75<sup>th</sup> 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