



Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2022

Why in News

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



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.
- This day **came into effect in 2003, but in 2015 it was revised** and was decided **to be celebrated every two years**. It was then a theme-based conference that was set up every year during the interim period.
- **PBD Conventions** are held **once every two years**.
 - **PBD 2021:** The 16th PBD Convention was held virtually in New Delhi. The theme was "Contributing to **Atmanirbhar Bharat**".
- On this day, the Government also confers **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.

▪ **Significance:**

- This day plays a significant role as the **overseas Indian community gets a shared platform to get themselves engaged with the government** and the native people of the land.
- The conventions are **very useful in networking among the overseas Indian community residing in various parts of the world** and enable them to share their experiences in various fields.

Government Initiative related to Overseas Indians

- **Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PKVY):** To **institutionalize the process of skill development** of emigrant Indian workers.
- **Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC):** **100 scholarships per annum are granted to Persons of Indian Origin (PIO)** and Non Resident Indians (NRI) students for undergraduate courses.
- **Know India Program' (KIP):** It familiarizes **Indian-origin youth (18-30 years) with their Indian roots** and contemporary India.
- **E-migrate system:** It is a foreign employers database. It ensures the welfare and check on exploitation met to emigrants.
- **VAJRA (Visiting Advanced Joint Research Faculty) scheme:** It formalizes a rotation program wherein top **NRI scientists, engineers, doctors, managers and professionals serve Indian public sector organizations** for a brief period, lending their expertise.

[Source: PIB](#)

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