



17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention

Why in News?

[Pravasi Bharatiya Divas \(PBD\)](#) is celebrated on 9th January to mark the contribution of the [Overseas Indian community](#) to the development of India.

- The Prime Minister **inaugurated the 17th three-day Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention in Indore, Madhya Pradesh** and a digital exhibition on the **contribution of the diaspora in the freedom struggle**. He also released a commemorative stamp, 'Surakshit Jaayen, Prashikshit Jaayen' on the occasion.

What is Pravasi Bharatiya Divas?

- **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 2023:** The theme is "**Diaspora: Reliable partners for India's progress in Amrit Kaal**".
 - On this day, the Government also **confers Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award**.
 - It is the **highest honour conferred on a Non-Resident Indian (NRI), Person of Indian Origin (PIO)**; or an organisation or institution established and **run by NRI OR PIO**, who have made **significant contributions to a 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.

What are the Government Initiatives 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 **PIO and 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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