



# Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

## Why in News

**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

### ▪ 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](#)**

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