



Research Unit
Press Information Bureau
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Government of India



Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

Diaspora: Reliable Partners for India's Progress in Amrit Kaal

Strengthening Overseas Indian Community Engagement

(Ministry of External Affairs)

January 12, 2023

“The nation has entered the Amrit Kaal of the next 25 years. Our Pravasi Bharatiyas have a significant place in this journey. India’s unique global vision and its important role in the global order will be strengthened by you.”¹

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is celebrated on January 09 every year to mark the contribution of the Overseas Indian community to the development of India. **January 09** was chosen as the day to celebrate the occasion because on this day in 1915, Mahatma Gandhi returned to India from South Africa. After his return, he led India’s freedom struggle and shaped the history of India.

The objective of PBD is to strengthen the engagement of the overseas Indian community with the Government of India and reconnect them with their roots. PBD conventions have been held every year since 2003,² the first PBD Convention being organised on the 9th of January 2003. Since 2015, under a revised format, PBD Convention has been organised once every two years. 16 Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Conventions have been organised till date. During the Convention, selected overseas Indians are honoured with the prestigious **Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award** to recognize their contributions to various fields both in India and abroad. To view the list of previous PBDs, [click here](#).



¹ https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/pms-speech-at-17th-pravasi-bharatiya-divas-convention-in-indore-madhya-pradesh/?comment=disable

² [Embassy of India, Cairo, Egypt : Pravasi Bharatiya Divas \(eoicairo.gov.in\)](http://Embassy of India, Cairo, Egypt : Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (eoicairo.gov.in))

17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention

PBD provides an important platform for the Government of India to engage and connect with overseas Indians and to enable the diaspora to interact with one another. The **17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention** was organized in partnership with the Madhya Pradesh Government from **January 08-10, 2023 in Indore**. The theme of this PBD Convention was "**Diaspora: Reliable partners for India's progress in Amrit Kaal**". Over **3,500 diaspora members from nearly 70 different countries** registered for the PBD Convention.³

This PBD Convention had three segments:⁴

- On January 08, 2023, the inauguration of the **Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas** was held in partnership with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. H.E. Ms. Zaneta Mascarenhas, Member of Parliament of Australia, was the Guest of Honour.
- On January 09, 2023, the PBD Convention was inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The event featured addresses by the Chief Guest, H.E. Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, the President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, and the Special Guest of Honour, H.E. Mr. Chandrikapersad Santokhi, Hon'ble President of the Republic of Suriname.
- On January 10, 2023, Hon'ble Rashtrapati ji, Smt. Droupadi Murmu conferred **Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards 2023**.

To know details of Thematic Plenary Sessions, [click here](#).

Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award

The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award is the **highest honour conferred on a Non-Resident Indian**; a Person of Indian Origin; or an organisation or institution established and run by them.

The award is to commemorate the contribution of the Indian diaspora to create a better understanding of India abroad, support India's causes and work for the welfare of the local Indian community. Selected eminent Indian diaspora members are awarded the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards in the presence of Hon'ble Rashtrapati Ji.⁵

[Click here](#) to view the list of PBSA Awardees 2023.

[Click here](#) to view the list of previous PBSA Awardees.

³ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1889243>

⁴ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1889243>

⁵ <https://pbdindia.gov.in/pbd>



Had an excellent meeting with President @CSantokhi. We reviewed the full range of relations between India and Suriname. We discussed avenues of cooperation in futuristic areas like innovation, technology, maritime security and more. 🇮🇳 🇸🇷



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Who is the Indian Diaspora?⁶

The Government of India recognises the importance of the Indian Diaspora as it has brought economic, financial, technological and global benefits to India. Today, ‘diaspora’ is commonly understood to include Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), who are citizens of India and [Persons of Indian Origin \(PIOs\)](#), including [Overseas Citizens of India \(OCI\)](#), who are foreign nationals. PIO and OCI cardholders have been merged under one category OCI in 2015.

India has a large diaspora in the world with over 32 million including over 13 million NRIs and 18 million PIOs spread across the globe, as on December 25, 2021.⁷ The Indian diaspora is known for their talent, exemplary discipline and hard work, and they have made significant contributions to science, technology, music, literature, politics and business. To know more about the population of India Diaspora, [click here](#) .

Government of India’s Initiative for Overseas Indian

The Government of India is proud of the contributions made by overseas Indians to the development of India. Several steps have been taken to ensure the safety and security of Indians abroad. Indian Missions and Posts abroad are dedicated to the overall welfare including ensuring the safety and security of Indians abroad. **India has 202 Missions** functioning for the welfare and redressal of the grievances of Indian citizens abroad.

Indian Missions and Posts are readily accessible to all Indian citizens within their jurisdiction and maintain close contact with the Indian community. There is a designated nodal officer in each Mission and Post to deal with emergency situations. In key Missions and Posts, a **24x7 Helpline has been established**. A **dedicated Community Welfare Wing** has also been established in Missions and Posts where there is a sizable Indian community. Indian nationals residing abroad are advised to register with the nearest Indian Mission or Post.⁸



Some other steps to ensure the overall safety and security of NRIs are as follows: ⁹

- The Indian Government organizes awareness workshops on safe and legal migration for the welfare of our workers and to generate awareness among them. A **Pre-Departure Orientation Training (PDOT)** is imparted to the workers before they migrate to foreign countries.

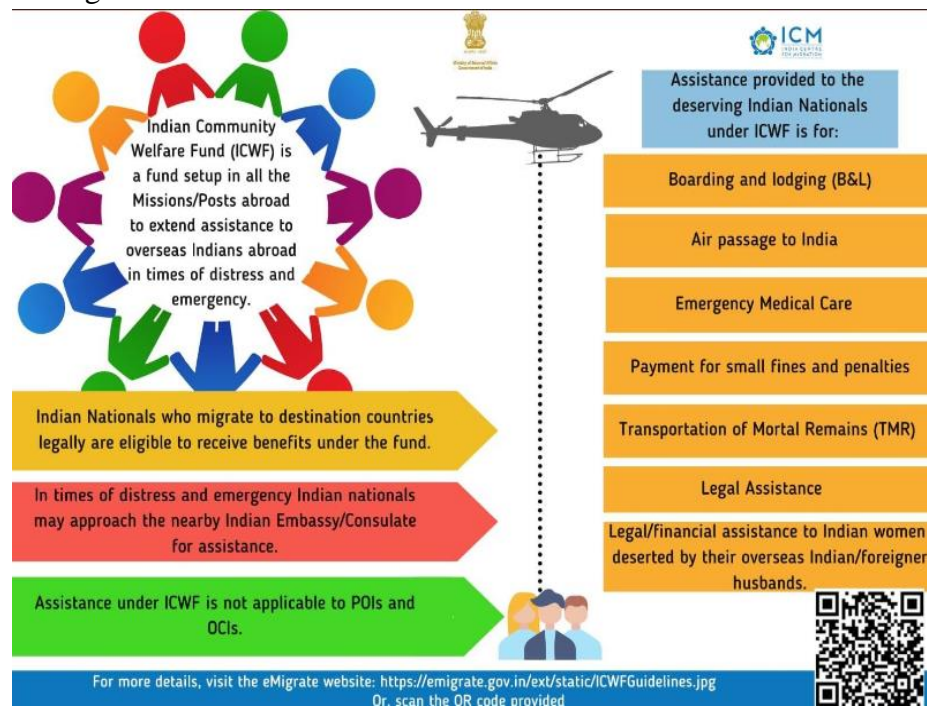
⁶ [17 External Affairs 15.pdf](#)

⁷ [AU689.pdf](#)

⁸ https://164.100.47.193/Isscommittee/External%20Affairs/17_External_Affairs_15.pdf

⁹ [AU689.pdf](#)

- A **PDOT manual** for prospective emigrants has been prepared, including its translation into regional languages. Online PDOT has also been launched to reach out to women and prospective migrants from remote areas.
- To facilitate the return of Indian nationals stranded in various countries due to restrictions imposed in the wake of the pandemic, the **Vande Bharat Mission** was started on May 07, 2020. During COVID-19 pandemic, our Missions/Posts proactively helped distressed/stranded Indian nationals by providing them food, shelter, and medicine and also facilitating their return back to India.



- Some other initiatives like [MADAD Portal](#), [Indian Community Welfare Fund \(ICWF\)](#), [E-migrate Portal](#), [Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayta Kendra \(PBSK\)](#), [Rishta Portal](#), etc. help NRIs to get assistance and address their grievances and ensure their safety and security.
- Grievances are also registered and responded to through various channels like calls, walk-ins, e-mails, Twitter, Whatsapp, 24 x 7 Helpline and other Social Media accounts of Missions/Posts
- To harness the energy and ideas of the Indian diaspora and connect them to India's youthful demographic success story, various initiatives have been taken up by the Government of India. These include [Know India Programme \(KIP\)](#) - aimed to expose India's young diaspora to various aspects of contemporary India and its vibrant art, heritage and culture; the scholarship programme [GIAN \(Global Initiative for Academic Network\)](#), the [VAJRA Faculty Scheme](#) which aims to bring a strong international connect to the R&D ecosystem of India, the Mission Shodh GANGA (Global Alliance for New Generation Acceleration), [Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children \(SPDC\)](#), [Ramanujan Fellowship](#), Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and [Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation \(ITEC\)](#).¹⁰

¹⁰ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1889646>



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The Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana (PBBY) is a low cost insurance scheme aimed at safeguarding the interests of Indian emigrant workers going abroad for overseas employment. It is a mandatory scheme for ECR category emigrants.

It is also available for ECNR (Emigration Check Not Required) category emigrants who are going abroad for various professions such as unskilled work, industrial/agricultural labour, domestic service, etc.

Details of the scheme, insurance providing companies, user manuals, official notification, etc can be found easily on the eMigrate website:- www.emigrate.gov.in



PBBY can be availed at a premium of Rs. 275 and Rs. 375 for two years and three years respectively. It provides an insurance coverage of up to Rs. 10 lakhs in case of accidental death or permanent disability while on employment abroad.



Medical insurance cover upto Rs.1,00,000/- (up to Rs. 50,000 per hospitalization).



Repatriation cover for medically unfit/premature termination of employment.



Family Hospitalization in India available upto Rs. 50,000/- .



Maternity benefit to women emigrants upto Rs. 50,000/-.



Legal expenses related to emigrant's overseas employment upto Rs. 45,000/-.

For more details, visit the eMigrate website: <https://emigrate.gov.in/ext/authorizedAgency.action>
Or, scan the QR code provided



References:

- https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/pms-speech-at-17th-pravasi-bharatiya-divas-convention-in-indore-madhya-pradesh/?comment=disable
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