

15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, (21-23 January, 2019)

The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention is a flagship event for engagement of the Government with the overseas Indian community. The event has been organized every year by the erstwhile Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs. During the 13th Edition of PBD Convention, which was held in January 2015 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, it was decided that the PBD Convention would be held once in two years. Accordingly, the next subsequent PBD Convention i.e. the 14th Edition was held from 7 - 9 January, 2017 in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

15th PBD Convention 2019 was organized in Varanasi in association with Government of Uttar Pradesh. In reverence to sentiments expressed by the larger Diaspora, Indian Organizations, community & elected leaders abroad on account of Kumbh Snan, this time PBD Convention was held during 21-23 January, 2019. The PBD Convention featured the Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (YPBD) on 21st January, which enables the Government to connect with the young overseas Indians. The Minister of State for Youth Affairs & sports (IC) was the co-Chair of this event along with Hon'ble EAM. A parallel session of UP PBD was held on 21st January, 2019. On 22nd January, Prime Minister inaugurated the PBD Convention. On 23rd January, the President conferred the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards on 30 Overseas Indians/organizations and delivered the valedictory address. PBD Delegates were given the opportunity to participate in the Kumbh Snan at Prayagraj on 24 January and Republic Day Parade at the New Delhi on 26 January, 2019.

The Prime Minister of Mauritius Shri Pravind Kumar Jugnauth accepted our invitation to be the Chief Guest for the PBD Convention. There is a tradition of Indian origin leaders or prominent persons being invited as the Chief Guest. On 21st January at the YPBD, Shri Himanshu Gulati, Member of Parliament, Norway was the Special Guest. Shri Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi, Member of Parliament, New Zealand was the Guest of Honour for the Youth PBD. In addition, there was participation of high rank dignitaries from all over the globe.

The theme of the PBD Convention in 2019 was 'Role of Indian Diaspora in building a New India'. Under this theme, there was 7 Plenary Sessions held over three days at which overseas Indians and domain experts from within India participated. Ministry had also invited overseas Indians, domain experts and resident Indians who are well versed with the subjects to be covered in the Plenary Sessions at the PBD Convention.

The complete Programme details of the 15th Pbd Convention is placed below:

**Programme for PBD 2019 held
on 21-23 January, 2019 at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**

21 January 2019 – Monday

Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

<u>Time</u>	<u>Session/Programme</u>	<u>Venue</u>
0920	All delegates to be seated	Trade Facilitation Centre
0930 hrs	Lighting of Lamp	
0931-0935 hrs	Welcome Remarks by Shri Dnyaneshwar Mulay, Secretary (OIA&CPV), Ministry of External Affairs	
0935-0950 hrs	Address by Shri Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs and Sports	
0950- 1005hrs	Address by Shri Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh	
1005-1015 hrs	Address by Special Guest H.E. Mr. Himanshu Gulati, Member of Parliament, Norway	
1015- 1025hrs	Address by Guest of Honour H.E. Mr. Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi, Member of Parliament, New Zealand	
1025-1045 hrs	Inaugural Address by Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Minister for External Affairs	
1045-1050 hrs	Vote of Thanks by Smt. Upma Chawdhry, Secretary, Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports	
1050-1130 hrs	Tea Break	
1130-1300 hrs	Plenary Session I: Engagement with younger members of Indian Diaspora	Trade Facilitation Centre

	<p>Session Coordinator: Shri Raveesh Kumar, JS (XP)</p> <p>Co-chair: Shri Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, MOS (Youth Affairs & Sports)</p>	
1300-1400 hrs	Lunch hosted by Shri Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs and Sports	Trade Facilitation Centre
1400-1800hrs	Uttar Pradesh PBD (Simultaneous event)	Trade Facilitation Centre
1430-2100 hrs	Visit of Youth PBD Participants to BHU for interaction	BHU
1800-1900 hrs	Cultural programme (Showcasing dance and music of UP)	Trade Facilitation Centre
1930 hrs	Dinner – hosted by Shri Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister of UP	Trade Facilitation Centre

22 January 2019 - Tuesday

Inauguration of 15th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas Convention 2019

<u>Time</u>	<u>Session/Programme</u>	<u>Venue</u>
1000 hrs	All delegates to be seated	
1020 hrs	Arrival of Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India	Stadium
1025-1029 hrs	Theme song by Artists from All India Radio 4 Mins (3.45)	
1030-1035 hrs	Address by Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Minister for External Affairs	
1035-1040 hrs	Address by Shri Yogi Adityanath Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh	
1040-1055 hrs	Keynote Address by H.E. Shri Pravind Jugnauth, Prime Minister of Mauritius	
1055-1105 hrs	“Bharat Ko Janiye Quiz” Award ceremony & group photo	
1105-1145 hrs	Address by Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India	
1145 hrs	Vote of Thanks by Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs	
1150 hrs	Prime Minister’s Movement to Lounge	
1155 hrs	Chief Guest, Mr. PravindJugnauth’s Movement to Lounge	
1200-1220 hrs	Bilateral Meeting	

1220-1300 hrs	Photo-op session, with following groups of Pravasis. 1220-1223 - Ministers/MPs from Malaysia 1223-1226 - Minister from Fiji 1226-1229 - MP from Norway 1229-1231 - MP from New Zealand 1231-1234 – MP from European Parliament 1334-1237 - GOPIO International 1237-1240 - GOPIO Malaysia 1240-1243 - Indian People’s Forum, Dubai 1243-1246 - Indians in Dubai 1246-1249 - Mauritius PIO 1249-1251 - PIOCCI 1251-1254 - PBD Secretariat-Malaysian Govt.	
1300-1430 hrs	Lunch hosted by Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India	
1200 -1430 hrs	Lunch for delegates	TFC
1500-1630 hrs	Plenary Session II: Role of India Diaspora in capacity building for affordable solar power Session Coordinator: Shri G. Balasubramanian, JS (EW)	Trade Facilitation Centre
1630-1645 hrs	Tea Break	
1645-1815 hrs	Plenary Session III: Giving back to India: Opportunities and Challenges Session Coordinator: Shri Manoj K Bharti, AS(ED) Co-chair: Smt. Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister	Trade Facilitation Centre
1900-2030 hrs	Cultural Programme (Organised by Indian Council for Cultural Relations)	Stadium
2030 hrs onwards	Dinner hosted by Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Minister for External Affairs	Stadium

23 January 2019 - Wednesday

15th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas Convention

<u>Time</u>	<u>Session/Programme</u>	<u>Venue</u>
0900-1015 hrs	Plenary Session IV: Indian Community Organizations working for Indian nationals in distressed situation Session Coordinator: Shri Amit Narang, JS (CPV)	Trade Facilitation Centre
1015-1030 hrs	Tea Break	
1030-1145 hrs	Plenary Session V: Role of Indian Diaspora in capacity building for affordable waste management Session Coordinator: Shri Manoj K Bharti, AS(ED) Co-chair: Sushree Uma Bharati, MDW&S	
1200-1315 hrs	Plenary Session VI: Indian Diaspora's role in capacity building of Artificial Intelligence in India Session Coordinator: Shri Upender Singh Rawat, JS (EG&IT) Co-chair: Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, MEITY	
1330-1445 hrs	Lunch hosted by Shri Ram Naik, Hon'ble Governor of UP	
1500-1615 hrs	Plenary Session VII: Developing cyber capacity of India Sesson Coordinator: Shri Upender Singh Rawat, JS (EG&IT) Co-chair: Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, MEITY& Law & Justice	

1615-1700 hrs	Movement of Participants to A.B. Vajpayee Sabhaghar	
1700-1800 hrs	Valedictory Session and Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards Ceremony	Stadium
By 1650 hrs	All delegates to be seated	
1700 hrs	Arrival of Shri Ram Nath Kovind, Hon'ble President of India at venue	
1701-1702 hrs	National Anthem	
1702-1708 hrs	Welcome Address by Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Minister for External Affairs	
1708-1715hrs	Remarks by Shri Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh	
1715-1745 hrs	Conferment of Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards by Shri Ram Nath Kovind, Hon'ble President of India; at the middle of the conferment - Acceptance Speech by one of the Samman Awardees	
1745-1755 hrs	Valedictory Address by Shri Ram Nath Kovind, Hon'ble President of India	
1755-1800 hrs	Vote of Thanks by Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs	
	15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention concludes	
2000 hrs	Dinner hosted by Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, President, ICCR	Trade Facilitation Centre
