

Pravasi Bhartiya Divas: 2021

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention is the flagship event of the Ministry of External Affairs and provides an important platform to engage and connect with the overseas Indians. In view of the ongoing Covid pandemic, the 16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention was organized entirely in virtual mode on 9th January 2021. The various components of the PBD Convention such as the PBD Conferences and Bharat Ko Janiye Quiz were also organised in virtual format in the run up to the Convention.

2. The theme of 16th PBD Convention 2021 was "Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat". The PBD Convention had three segments, namely Inaugural, Plenary and Valedictory. The PBD Convention was inaugurated by Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, and featured a keynote address by the Chief Guest, H.E. Mr. Chandrikapersad Santokhi, Hon'ble President of the Republic of Suriname. The 15 winners of the online Bharat ko Janiye Quiz for the youth were also announced during the Inaugural Session.

3. The Inaugural session was followed by the two Plenary sessions. The first Plenary session was on the theme – "Role of Diaspora in Aatmanirbhar Bharat". The Ministerial segment included the addresses by External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar and Commerce and Industry Minister, Shri Piyush Goyal. The technical session was moderated by Secretary(CPV & OIA), Shri. Sanjay Bhattacharyya and featured deliberation between seven eminent panelists from overseas and India.

4. The second Plenary Session was based on the theme – "Facing Post Covid Challenges - Scenario in Health, Economy, Social and International Relations". The technical segment featured addresses from Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri. V. Muraleedharan and Minister of Health, Dr. Harsh Vardhan. The technical segment was moderated by Foreign Secretary, Shri. Harsh Vardhan Shringla and featured panel discussions involving eminent diaspora experts.

5. The last session of the 16th PBD convention was the Valedictory Session where the Hon'ble Rashtrapatiiji delivered his Valedictory address to mark the occasion of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards for 202-21 were conferred by the Hon'ble President during the valedictory session of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas celebrations. The Pravasi Bharatiya

Samman Award (PBSA) is the highest honour conferred on overseas Indians in recognition of their outstanding achievements both in India and abroad. A Jury-cum-Awards Committee, with Hon'ble Vice-President as the Chairman and Hon'ble External Affairs Minister as the Vice-Chair and other distinguished members from various walks of life had considered the nominations for the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards, 2021 and had unanimously selected the awardees. The awardees represented the vibrant excellence achieved by our diaspora in various fields. Several countries were represented for the first time among the awardees. Dr. Mukesh Aghi, one of the awardees and President & CEO of US-India Strategic Partnership Forum, delivered the acceptance speech on behalf of the awardees.

6. The entire event was webcasted live on PBD website as well as on MEA Social media platforms on Facebook and YouTube.

7. Prior to the 16th PBD Convention on 9th January, 2021, five PBD conferences were also held virtually in run-up to the PBD celebrations. These included the PBD conference on themes of Culture, Media, GCC-Region, Economy and Youth. The PBD convention as well as the preceding PBD Conferences were streamed live across Ministry's virtual platforms to enable every Indian and Diaspora member to engage and participate in the PBD Celebrations. The Youth PBD was celebrated on the theme "Bringing together Young Achievers from India and Indian Diaspora" on 8 January 2021, and was anchored by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. The Special Guest for the event was H.E. Ms. Priyanca Radhakrishnan, Minister for Community & Voluntary Sector of New Zealand.

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

Programme of 16th PBD Convention

09th January 2021 : Venue – Virtual

Time	Programme
1005-1105 hrs 1030 hrs	Inaugural Session Welcome Remarks by Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister Keynote Address by Chief Guest H.E. Mr. Chandrikapersad Santokhi, President of Republic of Suriname. Address by Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. Announcement of “Bharat Ko Janiye Quiz” Awards
1115–1300 hrs 1310 - 1455 hrs	Plenary Sessions Session I - “Role of Diaspora in Aatmanirbhar Bharat” Ministerial Segment Opening remarks by Shri. Sanjay Bhattacharyya, Secretary (CPV & OIA) Address by Dr. S. Jaishankar , External Affairs Minister Address by Shri. Piyush Goyal, Minister for Commerce & Industry Technical Segment Session Moderator: Secretary (CPV & OIA) Panel Discussion with Moderator & Panelists Interactive Session with participants Concluding Remarks by Secretary (CPV & OIA) Session II - “Facing Post-COVID Challenges - Scenario in Health, Economy, Social, and International Relations” Ministerial Segment Opening remarks by Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Foreign Secretary Address by Shri. V. Muraleedharan, Minister of State (External Affairs) Address by Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister for Health & Family Welfare Technical Segment Session Moderator: Foreign Secretary Panel Discussion with Moderator & Panelists Interactive Session with participants Concluding Remarks by Foreign Secretary

1700-1745 hrs	Valedictory Session
1732 hrs	<p>Welcome Address by External Affairs Minister Announcement of Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards. Acceptance Speech by one of the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awardees. Valedictory Address by Shri Ram Nath Kovind, Hon'ble President of India. Vote of Thanks by Secretary (CPV&OIA), Ministry of External Affairs Conclusion of 16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas</p>
