

**Ministry of External Affairs
(Diaspora Engagement Division)**

18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is celebrated on 9th January every year to recognise the contribution of Overseas Indian community in the development of India. The PBD conventions provide a platform for the government to engage overseas Indians from different countries on key issues concerning the Indian Diaspora, besides the networking opportunities for diaspora participants. The format of PBD Convention was revised in 2015, with the main PBD Convention being held every alternate year.

2. The 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention (PBD), 2025 was held in partnership with the Government of Odisha in Bhubaneswar, Odisha from 8 to 10 January 2025. This was the first PBD to be held in Eastern India. This approach is in line with Government of India's focus on 'Purvodaya'. Odisha has had historical maritime connections with South East Asia and these ties are being renewed and rekindled in contemporary times. As such, PBD 2025 in Odisha while deepening India's connect with the diaspora also strengthens its 'Act East Policy'. A large gathering of delegates from over 75 countries participated in PBD 2025.

3. As has been the tradition over the years, the first day of the Convention – 08 January 2025, was dedicated for the Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas where the Guest of Honor was Dr. Dev Pragad, CEO, Newsweek. The first plenary of PBD 2025 titled, "Beyond Barriers: Diaspora Youth Leadership in a Globalized World" was chaired by Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports and Labour and Employment. Other Speakers included diaspora leaders from the areas of politics, business and academia. A joint business session chaired by External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr. S. Jaishankar and Chief Minister of Odisha Shri Mohan Charan Majhi highlighted the business opportunities in the State and how global investors can take advantage of its economic and technological growth. Further, the Government of Odisha also organized two thematic sessions on Odisha titled: "Unraveling India's Best Kept Secret" and "Viksit Odisha: The Road Ahead". The day ended with a mesmerizing cultural performance showcasing art forms from the State.

4. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated PBD 2025 on 09 January 2025. The Chief Guest for PBD 2025, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, H. E. Christine Carla Kangaloo addressed the gathering virtually. During her address, she remembered with fondness and pride her Indian ancestry as well as the contribution of Indian diaspora in Trinidad and Tobago. She highlighted India's remarkable contribution to global growth and development. Prime Minister in his address, urged the Indian diaspora to contribute towards the goal of Viksit Bharat 2047. He also encouraged the

diaspora members to make efforts towards preservation of diaspora history through initiatives such as digitalization of historical documents, films, documentaries and research. Prime Minister spoke about bringing together the diaspora under a Girmitiya Conference. Further, Prime Minister urged the diaspora to travel within India, particularly to the Maha Kumbh 2025, and contribute towards the 'Chalo India' tourism campaign. Prime Minister as part of PBD 2025, flagged off the Pravasi Bharatiya Express remotely and also inaugurated exhibitions including, Vishwaroop Ram; Recording Diaspora History - Mandvi to Muscat; Diaspora's Contributions to Technology and Viksit Bharat and Odisha's Economic Progress and Heritage. Prime Minister also interacted with the winners of the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award and the Bharat Ko Janiye Quiz.

5. On Day two, plenary sessions titled "Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers: Stories of Migrant Skills" and "Green Connections: Diaspora's Contributions to Sustainable Development" were held. The sessions were chaired by Smt. Shobha Karandlaje, Minister of State for MSME, Labour and Employment and Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister for Electronics and IT, Information and Broadcasting and Railways respectively. Day two ended with a scintillating gala cultural performance titled "Celebration of Bharat" organized by ICCR.

6. Day three commenced with plenary sessions titled: "Diaspora Divas: Celebrating Women's Leadership and Influence – Nari Shakti" which was chaired by Dr. S Jaishankar. EAM spoke about the various initiatives of the Government of India which have contributed towards women empowerment and Viksit Bharat vision. The second plenary session of the day was titled, "Diaspora Dialogues: Stories of Culture Connection and Belonginess" Chaired by Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister for Culture and Tourism.

7. During PBD 2025, EAM and other Union Ministers present interacted with diaspora groups from USA, UK, Qatar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Myanmar, UAE among others.

8. The valedictory session of PBD 2025 was presided over by the Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu. In her address, President expressed her appreciation for the indomitable spirit of the Indian diaspora. She made a special mention of the contribution made by women, students and the youth who she termed as the torch bearers for the future generations of the diaspora. She also spoke about the various efforts of the Government to enhance consular services and also called on the diaspora to actively participate in initiatives such as 'Know India Program'. Citing recent evacuation operations undertaken by the Government, President emphasized that the Government of India has always prioritized support and protection of the diaspora.

President conferred the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards on 27 individuals from 24 countries. PBD 2025 came to a close with a soulful santoor concert by Maestro Shri Abhay Rustum Sopori.

9. The 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was an overwhelming success and showcased the continued vibrancy of the Indian diaspora and their achievements abroad. It spotlighted the contributions of the Indian diaspora and how they have acted as a vehicle for promotion of Indian culture, values and ethos abroad, as well as how they would continue to be a partner for India's march towards a Viksit Bharat.

The complete Programme details of the 18th PBD Convention is placed below:

18TH PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS, 2025
["Diaspora's Contribution to a Viksit Bharat"]

PROGRAMME

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas – 8th January, 2025

09:00 hrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All delegates to be seated
09:30 hrs 09:32-09:37 hrs 09:37-09:47 hrs 09:47-10:00 hrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lighting of the Traditional Lamp Welcome Remarks by Shri Pabitra Margherita, Minister of State for External Affairs Opening Remarks by Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Hon'ble Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Address by Guest of Honour, Dr. Dev Pragad, CEO, Newsweek from the USA
10:00 – 10:15 hrs 10:15-10:25 hrs 10:25-10:30hrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address by Dr. S. Jaishankar, Hon'ble External Affairs Minister Address by Shri Mohan Charan Majhi, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha Vote of Thanks by Ms. Raksha Nikhil Khadse, Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports.
10:30-10:45 hrs	Tea Break
10:45 - 12:30 hrs	<p>Plenary Session I - "Beyond Borders: Diaspora Youth Leadership in a Globalized World"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair - Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Hon'ble Minister of

	<p style="text-align: center;">Youth Affairs and Sports</p> <p>Moderator – Shri Binny Bansal, Co-Founder Flipkart</p> <p>Panelists -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Mr.Y B Prabhakaran – Malaysian Politician and Member of Parliament for Batu, Member of the People’s Justice Party (PKR) – Malaysia ii. Ms. Eeshaanee Shandilya - Business Analyst, HSBC GLOBAL SERVICES, HONG KONG. Technology Graduate Trainee, Digital Business Services – Hong Kong iii. Mr. Don McLain Gill - Lecturer, Department of International Studies, De La Salle University. He specializes in Philippine foreign policy, India-Southeast Asian security relations, and maritime security cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, and India-Southeast Asian relations. - Philippines iv. Ms. Revathy Pillay – IT Business Analyst and Southside Radio FM Presenter. Dynamic youth ambassador and radio personality dedicated to empowering youth voices – South Africa v. Mr. Mohiuddin Mohamad Ali – ALI, vice-chairman of Galfar Engineering & contracting SAOG. He is president of the Oman chapter of the Indo-Gulf & Middle East chamber – Muscat vi. Ms. Mickela Panday – Daughter of former Prime Minister of T&T Basdeo Panday. Political Leader of the newest political party in T&T- the Patriotic Front, launched in 2019. She is a former MP. She is an Attorney-at-Law – Trinidad & Tobago
<p>10:45 - 11:30 hrs</p>	<p>Parallel Session – Joint Business Session between MEA and Odisha-- Interaction of Dr. S. Jaishankar, Hon’ble External Affairs Minister of India and Shri Mohan Charan Majhi, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Odisha with the Members of the Indian diaspora involved in business, particularly from Odisha</p> <p>(i) Welcome Remarks by Chief Secretary of Odisha</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (ii) Remarks by Dr. S. Jaishankar, Hon'ble External Affairs Minister of India (iii) Promotional video of Odisha Government would be played (iv) Remarks by Shri Mohan Charan Majhi, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha (v) Vote of Thanks by Special Secretary (Industries & Investment), State Government of Odisha (vi) EAM and CM of Odisha leaves the venue
11:30 - 12:30 hrs	Presentations by the State Government of Odisha on Investment Opportunities in Odisha Business Networking between stakeholders
12:30 - 14:00 hrs	<i>Lunch hosted by Hon'ble Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports</i>
14:00 - 15:30 hrs	SESSION HOSTED BY GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA-- "Unraveling India's Best Kept Secret"
15:30 - 15:45 hrs	<i>Tea Break</i>
15:45 - 17:15 hrs	SESSION HOSTED BY GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA —"Odisha: A Land of Opportunities"
17:45 hrs onwards	Cultural programme (Showcasing dance and music of Odisha) by Odisha Dance Academy choreographed by Dr. Aruna Mohanty
<i>Dinner hosted by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha</i>	

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Inauguration of 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention 9th January, 2025

0800 hrs	Gates closed for Guests and Delegates
09:30 hrs	All Guests and Delegates to be seated
10:00 hrs	Hon'ble Prime Minister enters the Stage in the Main Hall [Governor of Odisha, EAM, CM of Odisha, Minister of Railways (Proposed), MoS (KVS), MoS (PM) and MoS (MSME)-(Proposed) on stage,]-- they are already seated when Hon'ble PM arrives. Each one will felicitate PM.
<i>Inaugural Session of the PBD</i>	
10:01 -10:03 hrs	PBD Cultural Welcome Song is played Live

	[20 Musicians/Artists present the Theme Song Live from a Stage below—coordinated by ICCR]
10:04 -10:07 hrs	Welcome Remarks by Dr. S. Jaishankar, Hon'ble External Affairs Minister
10:08 -10:13 hrs	Remarks by Shri Mohan Charan Majhi, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha
10:14 -10:34 hrs	Virtual Address by Chief Guest of PBD, H.E. Ms. Christine Carla Kangaloo, President of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago
10:35 – 10:37 hrs	<i>Remote Flagging off Pravasi Bharatiya Express by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India</i>
10:38 -11:18 hrs	<i>Inaugural Address by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India</i>
11:18 - 11:45 hrs	<p><i>Hon'ble Prime Minister leaves the Main Hall and inaugurates the following <u>4 exhibitions</u>. Then takes a tour of the Exhibitions and Promotional Stalls of Union and State Ministries/Depts:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Vishwaroop Ram: The Universal Legacy of Ramayana – by ICCR</i> <i>2. Diaspora's Contribution to Technology-- by MEA (being curated by Dr. Masooma Rizvi)</i> <i>3. “Bharat Bharatiya: Swadesh Pardes—Abhilekhiye Virasat par adharit Pradarshani—Launch of Oman Collection”—by National Archives of India</i> <i>4. Exhibition on Heritage and Culture of Odisha by State Government of Odisha</i> <p><i>Visit to Promotional Stalls of Union Ministries (MSME, DST, MNRE, Ministry of Culture, AYUSH, MeiTy, Ministry of Tourism, National Health Mission, IRCTC, FIPI) and State Governments of Odisha, Maharashtra, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Gujarat etc)</i></p>
11:45 -11:55 hrs	<p><i>Group Photographs of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. With Guest of Honour of Youth PBD, and Foreign Ministerial delegations</i> <i>2. With PBSA Awardees of 2025 (24)</i>

	<p>3. With Bharat Ko Janiye Quiz Winners for 2024 (30)</p> <p>4. With Plenary Session Panelists and Moderators</p> <p>Union Ministers and Odisha State Chief Minister and Odisha Governor will be present in the aforesaid Group Photographs</p>
12:00 hrs	Hon'ble Prime Minister departs from the PBD Venue
12:00 – 14:00 hrs	<i>Lunch hosted by Hon'ble External Affairs Minister - Santoor by Abhay Rustum Sopori</i>
14:30 - 16:00 hrs	<p>Plenary Session II - “Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers: Stories of Migrant Skills”</p> <p>Chair - Sushri Shobha Karandlaje, Hon'ble Minister of State for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises and Labour & Employment</p> <p>Moderator – Shri P. Kumaran, Special Secretary (ER & DPA), MEA</p> <p>Panelists -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Shri V. Muraleedharan, Former MOS for External Affairs – New Delhi (former Minister of State for External Affairs) ii. Mr. Ashok Mago – Chairman & CEO, Mago & Associates Inc, USA iii. Mr. Rohit Ratnakar Rao--Founder-CEO of ‘Medrock Corporation’, a multinational pharmaceutical company and ‘Eske Corporation’ – Peru & Bolivia iv. Mr. Vilwanathan Krishnamurthy -- Dedicated and experienced social worker and cultural leader with an extensive background in welding technology and social services – Berlin v. Mr Sopnendu Mohanty – Chief Fintech Officer of the Monetary Authority of Singapore – Singapore vi. Shri Ashok Kalra – Managing Director and Partner of the Mughal Mahal Group, is the founder of the Mughal Mahal chain of restaurants across Kuwait with 12 dine in outlets & 500 staff members from India) – Kuwait

	<p>vii. Mr. Kandarp Mehta - Actor/Professor. Senior Lecturer in the Negotiation unit and the Entrepreneurship Department of IESE Business School. I teach in the MBA as well as in the Executive Education) - Spain</p>
16:00 – 16:15 hrs	Tea Break
16:15 - 17:45 hrs	<p>Plenary Session III - “Green Connections: Diaspora’s Contributions to Sustainable Development”</p> <p>Chair – Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Hon’ble Minister of Electronics & Information Technology; Information & Broadcasting and Railways</p> <p>Moderator – Shri Pradip Kumar Das, Chairman & MD – Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency)</p> <p>Panelists -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Hon. Mr. Hambyrajen Narsinghen – Junior Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Government of the Republic of Mauritius ii. Mr. Rahul Fotedar – He is the Founder & CTO of Morrow Batteries in Norway. He has been playing a leading role in product strategy, technology development and strategic partnerships – Norway iii. Shri Jagdish Nainwal – Jagdish Nainwal is currently working as CEO of UPL for LATAM region which is one of the leading agriculture companies in Latin America by having near to 1 billion revenue – Mexico iv. Mr. Indronil Sengupta – Has been working in various business areas for 30 years and has expertise in the field of energy. He is also the Chairman of Indian Business Chambers in Hanoi and has served in Tata Group for long years. His present Consultancy venture “Invesify” also engages in energy – Vietnam v. Mr. Aditya Yellepeddi – Working with the Swiss Biotech Association (from 2022 onwards). Heading the Indo-Swiss industry initiative to foster

	<p>collaborations and investments between India and Switzerland. Politics (Main Party: Le Centre - a Federal Government Party – Switzerland</p> <p>vi. Mr. Jitender Kr. Sachdeva – Group President, SkipperSeil Ltd. Over the past 38 years, Skipper has grown into a leading player in the regional power – Nigeria</p> <p>vii. Shri Kishore Reddy – Former President, India-Sri Lanka Society and India CEO Forum) – Sri Lanka</p> <p>viii. Ms Anju Virmani - Ontario Power Board, former CIO Cargojet - Canada</p>
19:15 – 20:00 hrs	Gala Cultural Show - Celebration of Bharat through stirring Audio-Visual spectacle of classical and folk dances from across India, complemented by a voice narrative – by Maitreyee Pahari – organised by ICCR
20:00 hrs Onwards	<i>Dinner hosted by Hon’ble External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar</i>

Friday, January 10, 2025

Valedictory of 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention 10th January, 2025

09:30 - 11:00 hrs	<p>Plenary Session IV - “Diaspora Divas: Celebrating Women's Leadership and Influence – Nari Shakti”</p> <p>Chair – Dr. S. Jaishankar, Hon’ble External Affairs Minister</p> <p>Moderator – Dr. Ritu Karidhal, Indian Scientist & Aerospace Engineer, ISRO</p> <p>Panelists -</p> <p>i. Ms. Shullete Cox - President, Jamaica Promotions Corporation (JAMPRO), an agency of the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce – Jamaica</p> <p>ii. Ms. Poonam Sagar- Director & Co-Owner PT Infotech Solutions — Jakarta, Founder of IndoIndians.com, chairperson of Indonesia India Business Forum (IIBF), Global Ambassador of International Women’s Entrepreneur Challenge (IWEC) – Indonesia</p> <p>iii. Ms. Sudha Majithia--Social Worker and</p>
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	<p>Philanthropist. Dynamic entrepreneur, renowned social worker and philanthropist, having established and founded a diverse group of companies operating in Tanzania – Tanzania</p> <p>iv. Dr Indrani Rampersad --First female Pandita, Academic, Cultural & Women’s Activist. Visiting Professor (2024-25) at Banaras Hindu University (BHU) – Trinidad & Tobago</p> <p>v. Ms. Maitri Joshi -Experienced in social welfare projects, flash flood mitigation, and tourism restoration with a proven track record in collaborating with diverse teams - Addis Ababa</p> <p>vi. Ms. Sakala Appachu Debrass -- Innovative marketing professional with an in-depth knowledge of the Doha market, with more than 20 years' experience in direct and indirect sales and Events. Built new products into independent businesses. Strong public relations skills – Qatar</p> <p>vii. Ms. Koki Veber -- Ms. Koki Veber has a chain of handicraft stores, Sariko, which sells traditional items primarily imported from India. To bridge the cultural gap, she supports charitable bazaars by SILA (Slovenian International Ladies Association) – Slovenia</p> <p>viii. Ms. Loveleen Brenna -- Ms. Loveleen Brenna is founder and CEO of "'Seema', a center for diversity leadership. 'Seema' was the initiator of the first standard in the world that systematize and standardize diversity and gender equality management as a tool for value creation – Norway</p>
11:00 - 11:15 hrs	<i>Tea Break</i>
11:15 - 12:45 hrs	<p>Plenary Session V - “Diaspora Dialogues: Stories of Culture, Connection, and Belongingness”</p> <p>Chair - Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Hon’ble Minister of Culture & Tourism</p> <p>Moderator – Smt. K. Nandini Singla, DG (ICCR)</p> <p>Panelists -</p> <p>i. H.E. Mr. Mahendra Gondeea - Minister of Arts and Culture, Government of Mauritius – Mission has</p>

verbally conveyed his confirmation.

- ii. **Mr. Ranveer Brar**, Indian Chef, New Delhi
- iii. **Ms. Charmi Chheda**- Writer, Designer, Theatre Director, Filmmaker, Artist, Actor, Dancer, Facilitator. She's worked with the Royal Government of Bhutan, under the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Information and Communication and Ministry of Home and cultural affairs.) - **Bhutan**
- iv. **Mr. Arnab Roychuramony** – Director/Owner Menkar LLC. Proactively participating in all Yoga, Ayurveda, Indian dance and all cultural activities in Ukraine) – **Ukraine**
- v. **Ms. Vanisa Dhiru** – Commissioner, NZ National Commission for UNESCO Commissioner, Library & Information Advisory Commission. Advocate for community, ethnic and gender rights issues (media) Co-Founder, Women in Leadership Aotearoa network Justice of the Peace of New Zealand) – **New Zealand**
- vi. **Smt. Aishwarya Hegde** – rtistic Director of Deepam Odissi Academy, a thriving arts institution in Oman dedicated to nurturing Odissi dance and serving as a collaborative space for artists from various disciplines) – **Oman**
- vii. **Mr. Paresh Kumar Ratilal Mehta** – Currently serves as ‘Trustee of Shree Sanatan Dharma Mandal Kampala’, National Convener of of BJP Uganda and Community Coordinator of Indian Association Uganda) – **Uganda**
- viii. **Mr. Shankar Kandasamy** – Head of the Dept of Bharatanatyam at the Temple of Fine Arts, Malaysia, Trained in the multi-disciplinary Indian classical dances) – **Malaysia**
- ix. **Ms Urmila Chakraborty** - Writer and translator (from and to English, Italian, Bengali and Hindi). She has long standing collaborations with various Italian cultural institutions in the field of intercultural education. She has several publications ranging across diverse subjects related to the Indian socio-cultural scenario - **Italy**

13:30 - 14:45 hrs	<i>Lunch hosted by Shri Mohan Charan Majhi, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha</i>
Valedictory Session and Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards Ceremony (15:00 - 16:30 hrs)	
15:00-15:02 hrs	National Anthem
15:02 – 15:04 hrs	Welcome Address by Dr. S. Jaishankar , Hon'ble External Affairs Minister
15:05-15:07 hrs	Remarks by Shri Jual Oram , Hon'ble Minister of Tribal Affairs
15:08-15:11 hrs	Remarks by Shri Dharmendra Pradhan , Hon'ble Minister of Education
15:12-15:14 hrs	Remarks by Shri Mohan Charan Majhi , Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha
15:15- 15:50 hrs	<i>Conferment of Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards 2025 by Hon'ble President of India</i>
15:50-15:55 hrs	Acceptance Speech by one of the Samman Awardees
15:55 -16:05 hrs	Group Photo with recipients of Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awardees 2025
16:05-16:25 hrs	<i>Valedictory Address by Hon'ble President of India</i>
16:25- 16:27 hrs	Vote of Thanks by Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs
16:27 – 16:29 hrs	National Anthem
19:00 – 19:30 hrs	Santoor Concert by Shri Abhay Rustum Sopori
19:30 – 21:00 hrs	Dinner hosted by Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh
