

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

Engaging the Diaspora: The Way Forward

7-9 January 2009, Chennai Trade Centre, Chennai

The 7th edition of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention organised by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs in partnership with the State Government of Tamil Nadu and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is scheduled to be held at the Chennai Trade Centre from 7-9 January 2009. This is the first time that the convention is being organised in Chennai.

PBD 2009 will deliberate on issues of interest and concern to Overseas Indians, which include - role of Overseas Indians in India's emergence as a global power, Preservation of Language and Culture, Role of Diaspora Women and the Role of Diaspora Youth in the 21st Century India, Regional Working sessions on Diaspora in the Gulf, Asia-Pacific, Africa, USA, Europe, Caribbean and Canada, Building-the-Bridges Sessions on Trade & Investment, Diaspora Philanthropy, Education & Diaspora Knowledge Network, Media & Entertainment, and Tourism.

Separate sessions with the State Governments, a Trade and Industry Exhibition with participation from corporate sector, Financial Institutions, State Governments, NGOs and a market place of Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre (OIFC) are other highlights of PBD-2009.

Dr Manmohan Singh, Hon'ble Prime Minister, Government of India will inaugurate the event and Mrs. Pratibha Patil, President of India will deliver the valedictory address at the three-day meet.

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www.pbdindia.org

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PBD Conventions provide a platform for exchange of views and networking to the Persons of Indian Origin settled all over the world on matters of common interest. Such Conventions have helped the Government to better understand the expectations of the Overseas Indians Community from the land of their ancestors and acknowledge the important role played by it in India's efforts to acquire its rightful place in the comity of nations.

Among the decisions taken by the Government of India as a result of wider consultations held at these Conventions, are formulation of the Overseas Citizenship of India, establishment of Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre, conceptualisation of PIO University, formation of Prime Minister's Global Advisory Council of People of Indian Origin, and the proposed India Development Foundation. A series of Programmes e.g. Know India Programme and Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children are also designed specifically for Diaspora youth.

Among other things, the 7th PBD Convention would have sessions on the preservation of Diaspora language and culture and the importance of Diaspora as facilitators and bridge builders. The highlights of PBD 2009 include an Exhibition on Trade & Industry, live demonstrations by craftsmen, cultural evenings and post convention tours.

The Convention would be inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India on 8th January. President of India would deliver the valedictory address and also confer Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards for 2009 on 9th January.

The website www.pbdindia.org is being launched on 21st August 2008 and would provide further details and open the registration.

