

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Celebrations 2021
(January 9, 2021)

The annual Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) celebrations this year will be celebrated on January 9, 2021 with a pre-PBD conference on Youth on January 8.

2. The inaugural session of the 16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention 2021 will begin at 1000 hrs (IST) on January 9, 2021 with welcome remarks by Hon'ble External Affairs Minister (EAM), **Dr. Subramanyam Jaishankar**, followed by keynote address by President of Surinam, H.E. Mr. **Chandrika Persad Santokhi**.

3. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, **Shri Narendra Modi** will address the convention **at 1030 hrs (IST) on January 9, 2021**.

4. The inaugural programme will conclude with announcement of "Bharat Ko Janiye Quiz" Awards.

5. Two Plenary sessions are scheduled thereafter.

6. The 1st Plenary session commencing at 1115 hrs (IST) will focus on "Role of Diaspora in Atmanirbhar Bharat". It will have a Ministerial segment addressed by Hon'ble EAM and will be followed with a Technical Segment of panel discussion moderated by Secretary (CPV & OIA).

7. The 2nd Plenary session titled "Facing Post-Covid Challenges – Scenario in Health, Economy, Social and International Relations" will also have a Ministerial segment starting at 1310 hrs (IST), followed by a Technical Segment moderated by Foreign Secretary, and will conclude at 1455 hrs (IST).

8. The Valedictory session will commence at 1700 hrs (IST) with the arrival (virtual) of Hon'ble President of India, **Shri Ram Nath Kovind**, followed by Welcome address by Hon'ble EAM and announcement of Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awardees. **Valedictory address by Hon'ble President of India is scheduled for 1745 hrs (IST)** and the 16th PBD will conclude thereafter with a vote of thanks by Secretary (CPV & OIA) and singing of National Anthem.

The weblink for the event will be shared in due course.

9. There will be a pre-PBD Conference focussing on Youth titled "Bringing Together Young Achievers from India and Indian Diaspora" scheduled to be held on January 8, 2021. It would commence at **1100 hrs (IST) on January 8** with Welcome address by Secretary (COPV & OIA), followed by addresses by Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs and Sports, **Shri Kiran Rijju**, Hon'ble Minister for Community and Voluntary Sector, New Zealand, **Ms. Priyanca Radhakrishnan** as Special Guest and Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, **Shri V. Muraleedharan** and Closing remarks by Ms. Usha Sharma, Secretary, Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. There will be a technical segment commencing at 1155 hrs moderated by Secretary, Department of Youth Affairs and scheduled to conclude at 1330 hrs (IST).

ADVISORY:-

- (a) The PBD 2021 will be a totally **virtual event** in view of the COVID-19 situation. This provides an ideal opportunity for all esteemed members of the Diaspora to join the annual event from the comfort of their home or office obviating the preparation for travel, stay etc required in previous years;
- (b) The Inaugural and Valedictory sessions are **completely non-interactive sessions** and participation from abroad will be as audience only;
- (c) For the two plenary sessions, the interaction would only be limited to the speaking slots given to the panelists;
- (d) Other participants at the plenary sessions shall keep themselves mute throughout the proceedings and questions if any will be received **only through chatbox**;
- (e) The event will also be live streamed on **Youtube channel** and **Facebook page** of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India;
- (f) All timings given above are as per the **Indian Standard Time (IST)**, which is 4 and half hours ahead of the Central European Time as on date.