



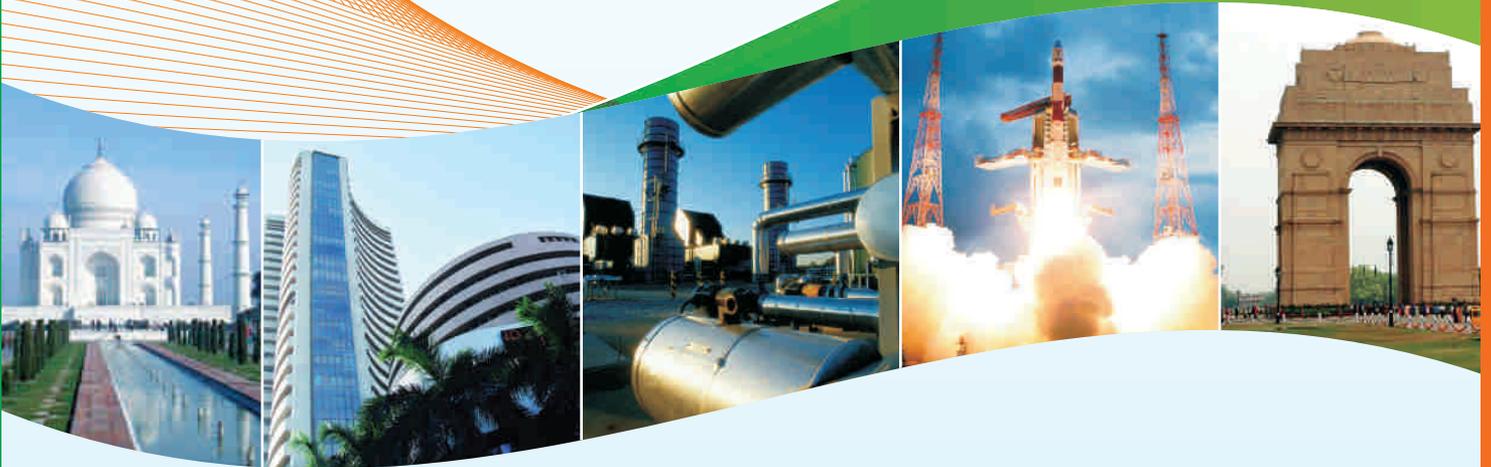
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Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs
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Confederation of Indian Industry



8TH Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

Engaging the Diaspora: the way forward

8TH प्रवासी भारतीय दिवस

दृष्टिगतता की राह पर बढ़ते कदम

7-9 January 2010, Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi

www.pbdindia.org

THEME PAPER



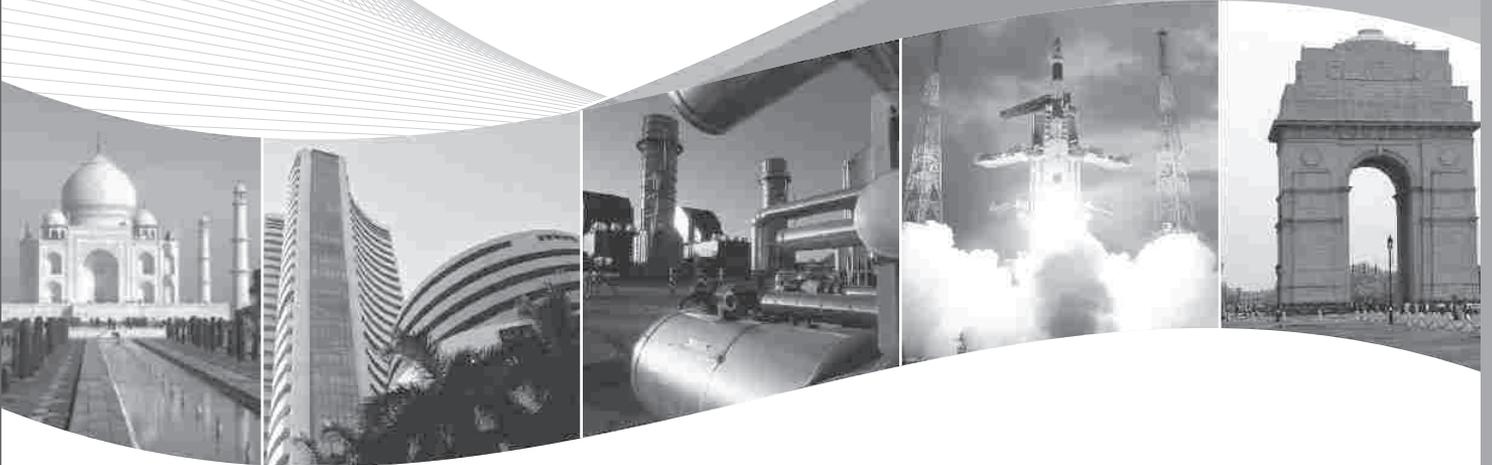
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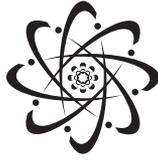
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Engaging The Diaspora: The Way Forward

Preface

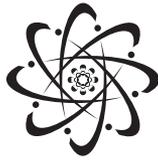
When Mahatma Gandhi returned to India on 9th January 1915 after 22 years in South Africa, he came back to a native land that was still under colonial subjugation, deeply impoverished, and struggling to build its identity and confidence. He launched himself into reinventing the very ethos of the nation, setting in place the foundational philosophies which guide India – and indeed, the world - to this day.

Commemorating the arrival of Mahatma Gandhi on Indian soil after many years, the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas annual convention salutes the relationship of the overseas Indian community with India. A flagship event of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, in partnership with the Confederation of Indian Industry, the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas instituted in 2003 is now being held for the 8th year in succession.

The PBD conventions are the largest platform for Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) and Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), a diverse community of some 25 million people based in almost every country in the world. The convention enables exchange of views and networking on matters of common interest. It also allows the overseas Indian community to interact with key Ministers, Chief Ministers and officials representing the Government of India and state governments. This annual engagement has helped bring about a deeper mutual understanding between the Pravasis and their native land.

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, setting up of the India Development Foundation, enabling professionals holding Overseas Citizens of India cards to practice in India and the launching of The Global Indian Network of Knowledge (Global-INK).

The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs is a young Ministry. Established in May 2004 as the 'Ministry of Non-Resident Indians' Affairs', it was renamed the 'Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs' (MOIA) in September 2004. The Ministry is headed by a Cabinet Minister



and is organized into four functional service divisions: Diaspora Services, Financial Services, Employment Services, and Management Services. A small team of eighteen officers is working in the Ministry in a de-layered and multi-task mode, leveraging the power of partnerships and outsourcing.

The Protector General of Emigrants (PGE) administers the Emigration Act, 1983. He oversees the eight field offices of the Protectors of Emigrants located at Chandigarh, Chennai, Cochin, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai and Thiruvananthapuram.

MOIA is the focal Ministry for all matters relating to overseas Indians, comprising Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) and Non-Resident Indians (NRIs). The mission of the Ministry is to promote, nurture and sustain a mutually beneficial and symbiotic relationship between India and overseas Indians.

In achieving this mission the Ministry is guided by four key policy imperatives.

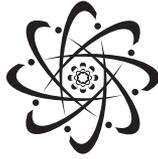
First, the heterogeneous overseas Indian community spread across eight major regions of the world is a product of different waves of migration over hundreds of years and has distinct and often varied expectations from the home country. In facilitating the process of engagement, the Ministry seeks to provide for this wide range of roles and expectations.

Second, there is a need to bring a strategic dimension to the process of India's engagement with its overseas community. It is important to take a medium to long term view of overseas Indians and forge partnerships that will best serve India as an emerging economic power and meet the expectations of overseas Indians as a significant constituency across the world.

Third, overseas Indians are both the products and the drivers of globalisation. They represent a reservoir of knowledge and resources in diverse fields - economic, social and cultural - and this reservoir must be drawn upon as partners in development.

Finally, the states of India are important players in this process. Any initiative that overseas Indians, individually or collectively take, must be anchored in one of the states. The states must therefore be encouraged to become natural stakeholder partners in the process of engagement with the overseas Indian community.

The Confederation of Indian Industry is a non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led and industry-managed development organisation. Founded over 114 years ago, it is India's premier business association, comprising a direct membership of over 7500 organisations from the private as well as public sectors, including small and medium enterprises and multinationals, and an indirect membership of over 83,000 companies. CII works closely



with government on policy issues, and enhances efficiency, competitiveness, and business opportunities for industry through a range of specialised services and global linkages. It has partnerships with over 120 NGOs across the country for promoting integrated and inclusive development, including, among others, initiatives in health, education, livelihood, diversity management, skill development and water. CII has a global reach through 9 overseas offices and institutional partnerships with 211 counterpart organizations worldwide. With its range of networks within India and outside, it is a leader in helping connect India and overseas Indians.

CII is the institutional partner for MOIA in the PBD convention, working closely with the Ministry in organizing it for four successive years. Additionally, CII is the operative partner for the Overseas Indian Facilitation Center (OIFC) and Global Indian Network for Knowledge (Global-INK).

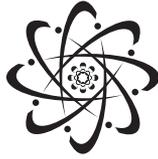
PBD 2010 carries forward the theme 'Engaging the Diaspora: The Way Forward' with a view to strengthening the dialogue on issues such as development, philanthropy, and gender, and is geared as always towards evolving specific solutions to specific challenges. The convention has been somewhat differently structured in this edition to provide the delegates an opportunity to interact with:

- (i) Cabinet Ministers from India on matters of interest and concern to the diaspora.
- (ii) PIO Ministers/dignitaries from other countries on the expectations and aspirations of the overseas Indian community from the land of their ancestors and how they could work towards strengthening the relationship between India and the country of their residence.
- (iii) Chief Ministers on issues their States need to address on priority, and facilities and incentives available in their states for the overseas Indian community.

PBD 2010 will also see the launching of an annual Lecture series under the overarching theme of 'India and its Diaspora: Everlasting Bonds of Togetherness'.

Highlights of PBD 2009

- Largest attendance by Pravasi Bharatiyas in recent years.
- Attendance by a large number of dignitaries from the PIO community.
- PM launches Global Indian Network for Knowledge (Global INK).
- Comprehensive e-Governance Project on Migration launched.
- PM announces enabling framework for registered OCI professionals to practice in India.



- President calls for institution of separate awards for overseas workers.
- Four plenary sessions, six concurrent sessions and seven regional sessions.
- Intense discussions on economic meltdown, India's role as an emerging power, preservation of language and culture of Indian Diaspora, and issues confronting overseas Indian women, among others.
- State Sessions on Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.
- Regional Working Sessions on Africa, Asia Pacific, Canada, Caribbean, Europe, Gulf and USA.



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Engaging The Diaspora: The Way Forward

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Engaging The Diaspora: The Way Forward

Introduction

Since the dawn of history, the movement of people has spread ideas, cultures, knowledge, and learning across geographies. Whether short-term contacts through trade or long-term interaction through migration, whether through peaceful means or through conquests – all human movements have fostered change and exchange as well as cultural and social enrichment. From West to East, such contacts are visible in languages and dialects, art and architecture, customs and traditions, myths and legends, and in fact, the entire fabric of weaves that make up a society.

In the modern world, conquests have given way to commerce, and fluid factors of production also include human capital, a fact that is increasingly gaining credence. For the first time, the annual seminal UN Human Development Report 2009 entitled 'Overcoming Barriers: Human Mobility and Development' examines the benefits and costs of migration and its impact on development experiences of nations. It incontrovertibly deems migration as beneficial for the migrant, the country of origin and the host country, while pointing out that opinions to the contrary do not fully recognize the macro picture. It stresses that while 740 million people are internal migrants, two-thirds of the world's 200 million international migrants have moved from one developing country to another. In both cases, migrants are able to access better education and health and are satisfied with their movements. The Report notes that international emigrants are 'significantly constrained' by barriers to entry and available resources to move.

As people move for economic purposes, they carry with them an invisible cloak of their personal and societal histories. The interchange of local and migrant populations enriches both sides in different ways. Cultures transform into a 'melting pot' which fosters oneness or, as some like to put it, into a 'thaali' where many societies exist simultaneously, making a harmonious whole. As technology erases barriers of distance, overseas communities begin to emerge as a significant bridge between their host countries and their countries of origin. However, the three-way interaction of the overseas community, the host country and the home country must be carefully calibrated in order to maximize the rewards to each.



Nations are now working towards leveraging the mutually beneficial relationship that exists between overseas communities and their home countries. Both host countries and home countries are realizing the significance of commonalities that overseas communities bring to the table in bilateral relations. The two crucial aspects of the engagement of the home country with its overseas communities are the common inherent identities of the diaspora, and the availability of robust institutions in the home country that can best promote and develop the relationship. The ultimate objective must be to establish a sustainable win-win partnership of all the three sides.

The seminal events of the year gone by, encompassing the global financial and economic crisis and the worldwide recession, threw the spotlight on the increasing interdependence of nations. Multiple dimensions of the globalization process were immediately manifest - political, economic, social, cultural, environmental. As the world came together to battle the ravages of the financial storm, the intrinsic value of partnerships and collaborations was once again reiterated forcefully. From the depths of the crisis emerged a stronger role for developing nations on the global platform. India, as a large and populous democratic country, was on the high table of global discussions on a range of matters that impact the world as a whole.

At the same time, India itself underwent the largest exercise of electoral franchise in history. The most important lesson from the 2009 elections is that development is top of the agenda for the Indian voter, which is a big change from previous elections. Incumbent governments at the state level that were perceived to be meeting the development expectations of the people were returned to power. Those parties and governments that were not seen to be in touch with the people's aspirations were given short shrift. The focus of the voter was on inclusive growth, and not merely on economic and industrial growth. The results also indicated that India is looking for the energy of youth melded with the continuity of an established party. A youthful India is on the rise and its voice will be heard in all realms, including economic, social and political spheres.

The 2009 elections cemented India's credentials as a vibrant, dynamic and functioning democracy that is able to articulate the aspirations of the multiple community subsets in the country. They also helped strengthen India's position on the global stage.

While carrying out its global responsibilities, India can draw on a vast human capital resource that few other nations enjoy, which is its diaspora. According to the UNHDR 2009, India has an emigration rate of 0.8%. The 25 million people of Indian origin scattered in all corners of the world are India's bridge to the rest of the world, helping build greater understanding and cooperation with it. At the same time, India's global responsibilities also encompass the issues and concerns of its diaspora and it must



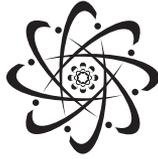
address some of the matters arising from recent global developments that have impacted the diaspora.

India's large overseas community comprises different histories and experiences, ranging from traders and entrepreneurs, to unskilled labourers, to students and highly educated professionals. Each of these has emerged from a different crucible, and envisages different expectations and relationships with India. It is important to consider each section, each geographical region and each income group while evolving policies to strengthen diaspora links with the country. Separate platforms and institutions are needed to best encourage the partnership of India and its overseas community across multiple dimensions. The needs of the vulnerable in particular, including women, children and workers, require systematic and coordinated intervention.

It has often been reiterated that India's links with its overseas community do not flow in a single direction. Overseas Indians can do much to assist in India's development struggle, in its unceasing endeavour to alleviate poverty, and in its aspirations on the global stage. Indeed, people of Indian origin living abroad represent a deep reservoir of knowledge and experience as well as a source of philanthropic and charity activities in India. Their high desire to give something back to the land of their forebears in addition to their interest in reconnecting with the cultures and people of India translates into a continuous engagement that is of benefit to both sides. Many ancestral villages have been transformed due to the philanthropic and development activities of their sons and daughters from overseas.

Over the years since 2003, when the first Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was launched, a number of ideas have come forward to create and develop enhanced bonds between India and its diaspora. The objective has been to catalyse partnerships in economic, social and cultural spheres so that the expectations and aspirations of both sides are met to the utmost. PBD 2010, the eighth in the continuum, comes at a crucial moment in world history, at a time when the world economy is recovering from a major blow and development imperatives have been relegated to the sidelines. PBD 2010 would need to address emerging and evolving scenarios to find the best fit of policies and endeavours that would sustain the symbiotic relationship of India and its overseas communities.

In the two-way exchange between India and its overseas communities, one side of the equation represents the roles of the diaspora and India's expectations from it. The other side of the equation is necessarily the role of India in meeting the interests and concerns of the diaspora. Thus, PBD 2010 seeks to be a platform where both sides can interact closely and effectively to address each other's issues. Plenary I is entitled 'Diaspora – Roles and Expectations' and will give a chance to participants to meet with Indian ministers. Plenary



II, themed 'Diaspora – Interest and Concerns', aims to provide a forum for eminent speakers from the overseas Indian community to delineate the issues of concern to them. Plenary III goes down to the level of the states under the title of 'Diaspora – Homecoming' and looks at how the connections between diaspora and states can be strengthened.

The Concurrent Sessions cover the four basic themes of the PBD 2010 convention, i.e., investment, knowledge, philanthropy, and gender issues. A separate session examines the issues of Indians in the Gulf, where 5 million of its workers reside.

As India seeks to play a role of significance in the global political and economic arena, it must increasingly engage with and benefit from its overseas community in articulating its world view. Simultaneously, it must open an exciting array of opportunities for its overseas community to benefit from a fast growing economic power. In a rapidly changing world, the time to reconnect and reinforce this partnership is at hand. The time is now.



Extracts from summary of UNDP Human Development Report 2009 'Overcoming Barriers: Human Mobility and Development'

Demographic trends—an aging population in developed countries and young, still-rising populations in developing countries—and growing employment opportunities, combined with cheaper communications and transport, have increased the 'demand' for migration. However, those wishing to migrate have increasingly come up against government-imposed barriers to movement....

Policies generally favour the admission of the better educated, for instance by allowing students to stay after graduation and inviting professionals to settle with their families. But governments tend to be far more ambivalent with respect to low-skilled workers, whose status and treatment often leave much to be desired....

In migrants' countries of origin, the impacts of movement are felt in higher incomes and consumption, better education and improved health, as well as at a broader cultural and social level. Moving generally brings benefits, most directly in the form of remittances sent to immediate family members. However, the benefits are also spread more broadly as remittances are spent—thereby generating jobs for local workers—and as behaviour changes in response to ideas from abroad. Women, in particular, may be liberated from traditional roles....

However, over the longer term, the flow of ideas from human movement can have far-reaching effects on social norms and class structures across a whole country. The outflow of skills is sometimes seen as negative, particularly for the delivery of services such as education or health. Yet, even when this is the case, the best response is policies that address underlying structural problems, such as low pay, inadequate financing and weak institutions....

We believe that the current downturn should be seized as an opportunity to institute a new deal for migrants—one that will benefit workers at home and abroad while guarding against a protectionist backlash. With recovery, many of the same underlying trends that have been driving movement during the past half-century will resurface, attracting more people to move. It is vital that governments put in place the necessary measures to prepare for this....

The way forward

Advancing this agenda will require strong, enlightened leadership coupled with a more determined effort to engage with the public and raise their awareness about the facts around migration. For origin countries, more systematic consideration of the profile of migration and its benefits, costs and risks would provide a better basis for integrating movement into national development strategies. Emigration is not an alternative to accelerated development efforts at home, but mobility can facilitate access to ideas, knowledge and resources that can complement and in some cases enhance progress.

For destination countries, the 'how and when' of reforms will depend on a realistic look at economic and social conditions, taking into account public opinion and political constraints at local and national levels....



PLENARY I

DIASPORA – ROLE AND EXPECTATIONS

The PBD process has helped to further and consolidate the relationship of the Indian diaspora with India. It has been recognised that the overseas Indian community represents above all a substantial knowledge base, which can contribute significantly to the progress of India. The Indian diaspora represents one of the most educated, successful, and innovative communities in the world. Indeed, the overseas Indian community is seen as the 'Knowledge Diaspora'. There is much that India can learn from their knowledge pool and much that India can in turn share with them from the wealth of its experiences as a diverse nation.

The role of the diaspora would necessarily have to be tailored according to the particular characteristics of its sub-sets. It would be myopic to merely view the diaspora as a unified entity, capable only of delivering on a certain parameter. Its highly heterogeneous and diverse nature indicates that the diaspora can perform multiple roles in relation to the home country.

The key role that the overseas Indian community plays is that of an interpreter of India for the world. Its ease in operating in different cultural environments and meeting multi-dimensional expectations is of crucial advantage to the diaspora. Able to synthesize their Indian-ness and adapt to new worlds, overseas Indians present to the rest of the world, a face of India that is recognizable to other cultures. With a broad understanding of a variety of customs and traditions from host country and home country, they can synergize and calibrate the idea of India to make them more acceptable to the world.

A major responsibility of an overseas Indian is the presenting of Brand India to their host country. This has been carried out admirably by the diaspora. Today, the image of India is higher than it has ever before been in the modern era. India earns respect and admiration from the world community and enjoys a high profile, in part due to the way overseas Indians have conducted themselves in host countries. Wherever they have gone, overseas Indians have distinguished themselves as productive, hard working, capable, sincere and peaceful denizens who are willing to adjust to new circumstances and be valuable members of society. They are recognized and valued by local communities who hold them in esteem. As such, they have proved to be true Brand Ambassadors for India.

Overseas Indians also play a role in keeping alive their traditions, customs, languages, and



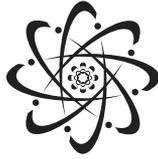
cultures in foreign lands. Everywhere that there is an Indian community, there will also be Indian places of worship, shops selling Indian clothes and provisions, and Indian forms of entertainment. Temples and gurudwaras double up as places of learning, where arrangements are made to teach Indian languages, dance, and music, and to celebrate community festivals. So many Indian communities throughout the world have so vigorously celebrated Diwali that it has almost become a global festival with special shopping events, decorations, parades, and even lamps in the White House.

Preserving its language and culture helps the diaspora to create its own identity in unfamiliar lands. By doing this, overseas Indians reinforce the very idea of India and spread its 'soft' influence. For example, the practice of yoga has become a fashion, while Bollywood dance is taught in studios across the world. It is increasingly normal to see non-Indians wearing Indian traditional clothes and accessories, and Indian authors are popular and respected all over the English-speaking world. Thus, overseas Indians are a vehicle through which Indian culture is carried into different lands.

PIOs also have a key role to play in their host country's economic engagement with India. As India's external engagement deepens and it seeks increased commerce with and investment from countries outside its traditional business domain, it relies on PIOs to assist in networking. Overseas Indians are often the first port of call for Indian businesses exploring new opportunities in other countries. With a reach in every field, be it professional or business, PIOs are able to provide the initial base for operations, and serve as 'keys' to open new doors for Indian entrepreneurs.

At the other end, local entrepreneurs keen to do business with India also often sign on PIOs to assist in traversing India's unfamiliar economic terrain. It is interesting that India country heads of many multinational companies are of Indian origin. Not only do they meet high professional requirements as outstanding managers, but they also bring to their jobs a unique perspective on India that their counterparts of other nationalities may not be able to do. Anecdotal evidence suggests that many top executives of multinationals operating in India are erstwhile PIOs returning for better job and life opportunities to their home country.

With such a multiplicity of roles played by the PIO, it is no wonder that the expectations from him or her are equally soaring in nature. For the major part, these roles have evolved independently from the very experiences of the PIO with little prodding from either home country or host country. PIOs have naturally assumed a different and distinct identity and this has accorded them a unique role in geopolitical space. Expectations from PIOs emerge from this distinct identity, and PIOs have risen admirably to the task.



Most of all, India expects that overseas Indians will continue to be model citizens of their host countries. As productive and peaceful members of the society to which they belong, overseas Indians earn the highest accolades. In this way, PIOs will best continue to play a major role in promoting the India brand overseas in a very positive and constructive sense.

India also expects its overseas denizens to do what they do best, namely, preserve their identities while at the same time assimilating and integrating into their chosen lands. The very fact of preservation of Indian language and culture helps to promote and spread it overseas. The gradual build-up in the momentum of Indian emigration has, over the years, led to the development of a critical mass of Indian populations overseas, which has ensured that popular Indian themes have an influence on mainstream life.

Through additional effort, PIOs have managed to play important roles as mediators between India and their chosen homes. Overseas Indians are increasingly active in political life, and many have attained positions of eminence in their respective governments. Such thought-leaders and policymakers, including persons honoured by the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards at previous PBD, have displayed increased interest in interaction with India, and are role models for their country's engagement with India and with India's development. The strength of Indian communities in many countries has led to growing

A majority of the people of Indian origin settled in and around Durban and Pietermaritzburg cities are now into a serious process of identifying their roots.

Most of them are descendants of the Indian immigrant workers who arrived in South Africa between 1860 and 1911.

Over 1.5 lakhs workers arrived at Durban from Madras (Chennai) and Calcutta (Kolkata) ports to work mainly on sugarcane farms as 'indentured' servants. The Indian workers who initially lost contact with their motherland due to poverty, later suffered badly what with the South African Government pursuing apartheid policy for many decades.

When a new democratic era dawned in South Africa in 1993 putting an end to apartheid, the people of Indian origin were already in the fourth / fifth generation. They had no clue of their Indian association. Now they are full fledged South African citizens.

But with the dawn of democracy and the re-establishment of democratic ties between both the countries, several South Africans of Indian origin have started visiting India to establish their links, though they meet with very little success.

Maintain Indian culture

Nevertheless, they still maintain Indian culture and traditions in every possible way. The poojas in Sri Mariamman Temple at Mt. Edgecombe near Durban, comprised singing of Tamil devotional songs 'Thillai Ambala Natarja' and 'Mannavane Yaanai Mugatthavane; Mukthi Nalam Sonnavane' with the help of English script. The Navagraha Praharam and a papal tree, which are traditional marks of any Indian temple, are present here too.

The Hindu, Nov 17, 2009



concern among local officials for their welfare and issues, and PIO leaders are able to effectively channelize this for developing closer relations with India. Indian communities can take on higher profiles and be more proactive in order to leverage their strengths effectively.

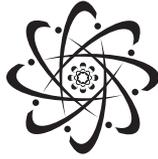
India would like its overseas communities to enhance their own links with the country through travel, tourism, cultural activities, and in other ways. The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has facilitated the Know India program for youth to reconnect with India through structured study tours. Over the years, several hundred youngsters have availed of this facility and have returned with greater knowledge and insight about their roots. It also assists PIOs to locate their ancestral homes through the 'Trace Your Roots' program, which has in many cases been successful.

The overseas Indian community has also been active in giving back to India in the form of philanthropic and charitable activities. This has involved not merely funds, but a high level of time investment, energy outlay, and knowledge transfer. A large number of overseas Indian organizations are directly involved in a number of fields, ranging from education of girls, building village infrastructure, and donating computers, to setting up hospitals and schools. Philanthropy enables the diaspora to participate in development and social issues in India. The Ministry has established the India Development Foundation of Overseas Indians to help channel the efforts, and to create credible linkages with Indian organizations. The Foundation, a 'not for profit' trust, aims to provide a platform for institutionalizing and organizing philanthropic activities for PIOs of all income levels, who wish to contribute to India.

Finally, the best way that overseas Indians can reconnect with India is through facilitating trade, investments, technology transfers, and other economic activities.

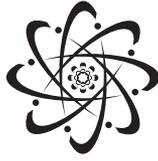
Trade with India is increasingly on the radar of overseas businesses. India's huge markets, drive for infrastructure development, and desire for engineering products and technology have opened up opportunities for companies around the world. At the same time, India's manufacturing profile is shifting to plug into international markets, and exports have been diversifying to include non-traditional sectors. Moreover, India's products are making inroads into developing countries, where their affordability and adaptability are highly valued.

Similarly, investments into India have been robust despite the global slowdown, as global companies are attracted by India's rapid growth prospects, large markets, and increasing externalisation. In the first half of 2009-10, India had received a high \$ 15 billion of foreign direct investments (FDI), and an almost equal amount as equity inflow. Venture funds,



microfinance institutions, angel investors and private equity funds are entering the country in search of profitable opportunities. A key area of potential is India's small and medium enterprises (SME) sector, where new entrepreneurs are rapidly mushrooming, especially from the high-technology fields.

The roles and expectations of the overseas Indian community are multi-faceted and extend into many areas. The key is that overseas Indians can identify their own particular areas of interest, be it social, economic, or philanthropic engagement, and utilize the many platforms of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs offers, to connect with India.



PLENARY II

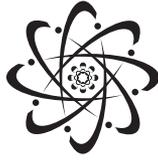
DIASPORA – INTEREST AND CONCERNS

The vast majority of overseas Indians have very limited interaction with India, as they belong to fourth or fifth generations of emigrants. Their knowledge about India is tenuous and while they may aspire to connect with their roots, they face legitimate challenges in doing so. Other members of the diaspora may have active engagement with India but may find themselves unable to effectively meet their objectives. Many overseas Indians experience real frustrations when it comes to procedural work, for charitable purposes, investments, visas and work permits, or other administrative matters. Institutional arrangements for resolving these challenges are the need of the hour.

Even though families have lived overseas for many generations, they continue to maintain their cultural identities as Indians. Some have adapted local customs to Indian habits, while others have retained older forms of cultures that are less identifiable in India. As a source of distinct identity, overseas Indians often wish to pass on cultures, customs, and languages to younger generations. In the face of stronger domestic environments, it is often not easy to do so, and this remains an issue of concern for the older generations.

Interestingly, the rise of India on the global firmament has rekindled the curiosity of the younger generation in their roots. Overseas Indian youth are reconnecting with India through its modern music, its cinema, its cuisines, and its fashions. The new India is attracting their attention with adaptations of traditional cultures that are more au courant with the rest of the world today. But while this is welcome, parents are also concerned that India's rich heritage may be lost to their children if there are not enough opportunities to connect with classical forms.

To meet the concerns of the diaspora in preserving language and culture, a recent initiative of the Government of India has been to increase the presence of its Indian Cultural Centers to more cities abroad. The ICC are vibrant active hubs for disseminating information about India, holding cultural events and seminars, and conducting lessons in music, dance and language. Set up by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), the ICC are managed by the missions overseas with dedicated staff.



In order to promote awareness and appreciation of India's composite cultural heritage abroad, the Council has established 20 Cultural Centres with two sub-centres in different parts of the world. The Centres are located at Cairo(Egypt), Berlin(Germany), Phoenix(Mauritius), Paramaribo(Suriname),Georgetown(Guyana), Jakarta and Bali(Sub-Center)(Indonesia), Moscow(Russian Federation), London(UK),Astana(Kazakhstan), Tashkent(Uzbekistan), Durban and Johannesburg(South Africa), Port of Spain(Trinidad & Tobago), Colombo(Sri Lanka), Dushanbe(Tajikistan), Suva and Lautoka(Sub-Center)(Fiji),Kuala Lumpur(Malaysia) , Tokyo(Japan), Kathmandu(Nepal) and Kabul(Afghanistan).

The activities of the Cultural Centres support the cultural needs of the local population. The Centres organize several outreach programmes including panel discussions, lectures, exhibitions of visual arts, essay competitions, performances of dance, music & theatre, screening of Indian films, publication of news bulletins, seminars on Indian topics etc. Some of the Cultural Centres also have regular teaching classes in Indian music, dance, yoga and Hindi language. The Centres also maintain Libraries and Audio-Video material. To facilitate the programmes, ICCR periodically sends print & audio-video material including books in Hindi, English, Sanskrit and Urdu and audio-video material.

Apart from organizing their own activities, these Cultural Centres also provide a supportive role to the respective Indian Missions for coordinating various cultural activities. The Centres develop and maintain contacts with the local citizens particularly students, teachers, academicians, opinion makers and cultural personalities to project a composite picture of India's rich and diverse cultural heritage.

Overseas Indians can be partners to the ICC, using them as a base for further activities. The infrastructure of the ICC may be leveraged for community cultural functions. For example, in Malaysia, a group of overseas Indians and local eminent persons have come together under the aegis of the High Commission of India as 'Friends of ICC', to guide and suggest activities that meet the requirements of the PIO as well as local communities. With the cooperation of various domestic institutions, the ICC can serve as a multi-function center for a range of events and meet diverse needs.

The PIO community should also leverage the ICC as a means of preserving their own distinct cultures. As dissimilar as overseas Indian communities are, each segment has its own oral histories, its own experiences of tragedies and successes, and its own unique adaptations. With the onward march of globalization, such exceptional tiny civilizations may be lost to the world if they are not preserved in some form or the other. There is a major gap in studies about the emigration experience from India. Overseas Indians need to be more aware of their individual heritages and take the lead in recording them for posterity so that the trials and triumphs of their forebears remain in national and international memories. Research and studies can be encapsulated in books, film or oral forms for future generations.



A major chunk of overseas Indians belongs to the category of workers. Skilled and unskilled labourers are going out of the country in large numbers to earn a livelihood abroad, and then return to India after the end of their contracts with their savings. Some workers go for short durations, while others may spend years overseas, often separated from their families for long periods. The issues and challenges facing these workers are many, and need to be addressed.

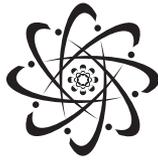
The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has made workers' issues a priority. Increasingly the Government of India is allocating officials in key missions and posts overseas to handle the problems faced by workers. Several initiatives have been taken by MOIA, including agreements with overseas governments on social security, labour welfare, and regulations. MOIA has also launched a helpline for overseas workers to which they may have recourse in cases of emergencies. Emigration procedures have been simplified, and the office of Protectorate of Emigrants has been strengthened. A special fund has been established to help distressed workers in cases of emergency.

With the outsourcing of visas and passport related work at many Indian missions and posts overseas, problems of long queues and shortage of staff in Missions/Posts abroad and many PIO problems in obtaining visas, PIO and OCI cards, and renewal of passports have been alleviated. Several new consulates have also been established, reducing the workload from existing missions.

150th anniversary of arrival of Indians in South Africa

The year 2010 marks the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the first wave of Indians in South Africa. It was on 16.11.1860 that the first ship-load of indentured labourers from the Indian sub-continent arrived in South Africa on board SS Truo. As is typical of any human settlement, these early settlers toiled hard in sugarcane fields, coal-mines, tea-plantations etc. and suffered many trials and tribulations, before emerging as a successful and well-integrated segment of the South African population. It is to recognize and acknowledge the immense contribution made by this community in the development of South Africa, that '1860 Legacy Foundation' was constituted with 23 elected representatives of the various sects of the Indian community resident in South Africa. This community of over 1.2 million PIOs is one of the largest concentrations of the overseas Indian community anywhere in the world. The '1860 Legacy Foundation', which has the full support of the South African authorities has drawn up an elaborate programme of action to commemorate and celebrate the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Indians in South Africa.

Another concern of overseas Indians is the challenges they face in investing in India. Many new funds, specifically tailored to meet the aspirations of NRIs and PIOs, have been set up by banks and investment companies. These have been performing well and have impressive investments, highlighting the interest of PIOs in India's growth opportunities.



While private equity and venture funds have been popular, real estate and infrastructure funds are also gaining interest. Banks such as State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, and others have set up special fund routes, while mutual funds are also targeting NRIs for investments.

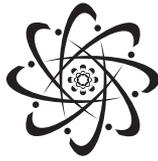
Some information hurdles have been overcome with the establishment of the Overseas Indian Facilitation Center (OIFC) which aims to be a one-stop real-time source of information on investments, regulations, tax matters, and other financial matters of concern to PIOs. A public private initiative between the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs and Confederation of Indian Industry, OIFC was established in May 2007. Acting as a focal point for expanding the economic engagement of the Indian diaspora with India, the Centre runs with a three fold mandate of

- promoting investments into India,
- facilitating B2B partnerships and
- enabling effective knowledge exchange.

The overall objective of OIFC is to offer a well-engaged platform for the Indian Diaspora to connect with key stakeholders in India and drive them as successful cohorts in India's development. For more information, visit the OIFC website: www.oifc.in.

Despite these initiatives, investment concerns of diaspora will continue to be on the table and must be raised in order that they can be addressed more effectively.

Issues of concern to Overseas Indians also include difficulties faced in charitable and philanthropic activities as well as challenges for women. These are included in later sections of this paper.



PLENARY III

SESSION WITH CHIEF MINISTERS

India, a union of states, is a Sovereign, Secular, Democratic Republic with a Parliamentary system of Government. The President is the constitutional head of the Executive. In the states, the Governor, as the representative of the President, is the head of Executive. The system of government in states closely resembles that of the Union. There are 28 states and 7 Union Territories in the country. Union Territories without their own Legislative Assemblies are administered by the President through an Administrator appointed by him. From the largest to the smallest, each State/UT of India has a unique demography, history and culture, dress, festivals, language etc.

The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has accorded states high priority as vehicles for the engagement of diaspora with their roots. While the Ministry identifies policy actions for strengthening interaction with overseas Indians, much of the action is actually conducted by the states. This allows a direct link between states and people originating from the different states, facilitating on the one hand, the desire of the overseas Indian to connect with his or her own language and culture, and on the other hand, the need of states for investment and philanthropic activities.

A number of key sectors of the economy and social development, such as internal security, education, healthcare, agriculture, etc. fall under the policy domain of the states. The states of India have now become microcosms of its development, competing for investments, facilitating partnerships and setting up their own systems for governance and economic development. A healthy rivalry has been noticed among states vying for the same funds or projects. For example, when land acquisition problems prevented the Tata Nano plant from coming up in West Bengal, many other states rushed to offer alternative plots.

Under India's federal system of government, different states can have different political parties in the saddle of state governments. Often, the political party in a state is different from the one operating at the center. It is possible that the same coalition is led by one party in one state, and by another party in some other state. Administrative set-ups and procedures can differ across states, with different levels of IT-usage, transparency, and governance. Thus a range of political and economic philosophies can prevail across the country, which can often be confusing for overseas Indians.

The economic growth and development of states is still uneven. While some states have been consistently growing at 10-12% over the medium term, other states have languished



at rates half of this. It is interesting to note that some of the states with large populations such as Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh are among the slower growing states. If India is to achieve rapid and inclusive economic growth, these populous states must be part of the high-growth trajectory.

At each of the series of PBD, different states have been represented by their chief ministers, ministers and officials. These participants have made presentations on the opportunities for investment and charitable work in their respective states. They have also circulated the special incentives or packages offered by them for investments. Development platforms available for partnering with PIOs and the assistance that can be provided to them have been highlighted. Certain states have set up departments or institutions that are exclusively directed at non-residents, including their welfare and rehabilitation following end of work contracts.

Some states have also leveraged the opportunity to hold concomitant mini-PBD in their areas, attracting their overseas communities to their hometowns. Gujaratis, Biharis, and other communities settled abroad have returned to their villages to explore developments and renew contacts with friends and relatives, as well as to contribute to their hometowns.

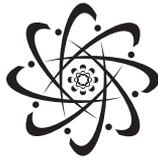
States have also been represented through the exhibitions that are held simultaneously with the PBD. The colorful exhibitions provide an opportunity for states to showcase their products, their strengths, tourist spots and sectors of potential.

At previous editions of the PBD, overseas Indians have raised issues that fall within the jurisdiction of the states. These have included involving PIOs in healthcare and education for the masses, distribution of water, population control and entry of younger leaders into politics. At an interactive session in PBD09, nine different states participated, highlighting their progress in infrastructure, industry, and services sectors.

The states also partake in the Trace Your Roots program and the Know India Program for overseas Indians, organized by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs.

There are many ways that the diaspora can work with the states in their field of interest. Often what is needed by the states is a stronger connection with the outside world, as it is the Central Government that conducts foreign policy and external trade engagements. Overseas Indians can help forge networks, bring vital consultancy and experiential inputs, or contribute their own time to development.

Two key areas that overseas Indians may like to explore include handicrafts and handlooms, and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME).



India's huge range of handicrafts and handlooms unfortunately has not been adequately capitalized for the overseas markets. Practically every niche in India can boast of its own particular crafts, be it in wood, metal, marble, or other material. Countries such as Indonesia and Philippines have been able to promote their crafts to outside audiences by modernizing designs, designing products with practical usages, and effective marketing. Overseas Indians can play a key role in revitalizing the handicrafts of their particular hometown. Similarly, each region of India has a range of textiles in silks, cottons, or wools, with its own styles of embroidery and weaving. This should also be better promoted in international markets. Existing government bodies such as the Handloom and Handicraft Export Corporation and Apparel Export Promotion Council can be contacted for exploring partnerships.

The other area of MSME presents an interesting opportunity. India's MSME sector, contributing 30% to manufacturing output and 40% to exports, is rapidly restructuring, boosted by globalization and a class of new technopreneurs. MSME have become active in the new technology sphere, including sectors such as IT, Business Process Outsourcing, pharma, chemicals, auto components and others. Almost three-quarters of the members of apex industry association Confederation of Indian Industry are from the MSME segment, while about 85% of the members of premium IT/BPO industry association NASSCOM are MSME.

More domestic and overseas funds have strategised to address the MSME sector in India, and interest in its dynamism and potential for returns has sharpened. PE firms invested \$ 1 billion in MSME in 2007-08, an increase of 75% over the previous year. It is estimated that another \$5 billion is waiting in the wings for the sector.

Overseas Indians can either provide funds, or offer consultancies in marketing, product development, quality and other issues at affordable rates. A new class of entrepreneurs in India can bridge the gap of employment opportunities.

Such engagements with handicrafts and with MSMEs are best carried out with the state governments which afford the opportunity to connect at the micro level.



Concurrent Session – I

Returning to 9% Growth: Diaspora Connect

In the years from 2003 to 2008, India raced ahead on the growth path, overturning established notions about development models. With an average GDP growth rate of 8.8% over five years, India grabbed the attention of world businesses and emerged as the next big destination. On the economic front, new trajectories of incomes, savings, investment, external orientation and reforms were set. In the social arena, the emergence of new technologies in communication and IT changed lifestyles. India's young population established new trends in consumption, employment, and entertainment, among other parameters. India truly underwent a massive socio-economic shift in the past five years, the reverberations of which will be felt for decades to come.

In tandem, on the political side, India maintained its high traditions of democracy and human rights, as electoral freedom gave voice to a billion people. Once and for all, it could dispel the theory that democracy and development are not mutually compatible. As the world's fastest-growing free-market democracy, it demonstrated that a pluralistic society, characterized by tolerance and secular values, can also be flag-bearer for rapid economic growth.

The impact of this high level of economic achievement under a free society and with ingrained respect for human values firmly rooted in democratic traditions will resonate among aspiring developing countries as a paradigm of the virtues of democracy, in the years to come. Possibly, the demonstration effects of India's success will impact the futures of many countries still struggling to build robust democratic institutions.

The global economic crisis led to a temporary disruption in the high-growth path. Some indicative figures of how India has been affected by the global downturn are given below:

GDP – The rate of growth of GDP consistently came down in the last year after hovering around 9% for 13 consecutive quarters (Q4 2004-05 to Q4 2007-08). The decline was sharp in the third quarter of 2008-09, when the full ramifications of the global financial crisis hit the country. Full-year growth for 2008-09 came in at 6.7%, which however remains the second highest growth rate among major economies. In the second quarter of 2009-10, GDP growth roared back to 7.9%. Following this unexpectedly high rate, growth forecasts by economic institutions and experts for the year are being revised upwards.



However, the extent of actual growth for the year will depend on recovery in developed economies.

Manufacturing – Sectorally, the downturn was steepest in the Manufacturing sector, which plunged into negative territory in the third quarter of 2008-09 from double-digit growth rates a few quarters ago. Labour-intensive sectors such as construction, textiles, and leather experienced high difficulties in the aftermath of the crisis. Only from August 2009 did the Index of Industrial Production show a return to 8-9% growth.

Services – Lower growth rates were experienced in all services sectors, which together contribute 57% to GDP. The financing, insurance, real estate and business services sector decelerated to 9.5% from 11.9% in the previous year, while the trade, hotels, transport and communication sector dropped by four percentage points. The only exception was the community, social and personal services sector, which expanded by 17.3% in Q3 2008-09 due to higher government salary payout. But some 15 million new phone connections were sold every month since March 2009, and credit growth remains robust.

Exports - A complete turnaround in exports was witnessed as the crisis unfolded. Exports have grown by 25-30% annually for the last five years. Robust export growth in the earlier half of the fiscal year dropped into negative figures from October 2008 onwards, decelerating to as much as -33.3% in March 2009. The commodities which suffered the most in the April-Dec 2008 period included cotton and handicrafts, while ores and minerals, gems and jewelry and textiles experienced flat growth. These sectors are also comparatively labour-intensive and estimates for job losses in export sectors go up to half a million. Exports revived somewhat by the end of the year but will only significantly recover when major developed economies see a return to consumer confidence and spending.

Strong action by the government and the central bank on both fiscal and monetary fronts helped ease the worst ramifications of the global recession. The Indian stimulus package amounted to some 12% of GDP, while interest rates were brought down to historic lows, and liquidity pumped into the economy. Along with other economies, India too faces high fiscal deficit and needs to unwind the stimulus in an orderly and non-disruptive manner.

But the imperative for returning to a GDP growth rate of 9% is even stronger now than ever, as a young population is impatient to overcome poverty and low human development indicators to take its rightful place in the world.

Within this scenario, it was heartening to note that remittances from Pravasis remained at high levels. Total private transfers to India stood at \$46.4 billion in 2008-09, of which



about half consisted of inward remittances for family maintenance. In the first quarter of 2009-10, private transfers recorded a growth of 9.4% over the previous year. According to the UNHDR, India received the highest amount of remittances in the world in 2007, but the per capita level of remittance at \$30 was lower than that of South Asia as a whole.

This large fund flow helps preserve India's current account deficit at manageable levels. According to the Reserve Bank of India¹, exports in 2008-09 stood at \$175 billion, while imports aggregated \$295 billion, thus resulting in a negative trade balance of \$120 billion. Net invisibles of \$90 billion compensated for this shortfall, including \$44 billion of private transfers. The other significant part of net invisibles was revenue of \$44 billion from export of software services, in which also non-resident Indians play a major role.

Apart from contributing to India's sound macroeconomic fundamentals, remittances also add significantly to health and education parameters as mentioned in the UN Human Development Report 'Overcoming Barriers: Human Mobility and Development'. Remittances help boost school enrolment, reduce fertility and empower women. They can be a 'vital strategy' for improving livelihoods and reducing poverty. The wealth and income effects of remittances are distributed not only to the family of the emigrant but often to his entire community in the form of increased spending.

India has also been fortunate that some of its emigrants have been at the top of the education and professional skills ladder. Thus, global corporate leaders such as Indra Nooyi, Arun Sarin, Rajat Gupta, and others have led the closer engagement of their companies with India, and have helped place opportunities in India at the center of global business decision-making. Indra Nooyi as head of the US-India Business Council and Karan Billimoria at UK-India Business Council drove the agenda for corporate partnerships between India and the two countries. Rajat Gupta helped set up the Indian School of Business, a premier management school. Similarly, academics such as Professor CK Prahalad, Professor Raghuram Rajan, and many others are closely involved in the entire development process of India. Shashi Tharoor returned to India to win elections and be appointed as Minister of State for External Affairs. In many small ways, overseas Indian businessmen in Africa, South America, South East Asia, and other regions are driving the business agenda of their countries with India.

Reprising the 9% GDP growth trajectory could strengthen the two-way bond of India and its diaspora, as diaspora engagement can both assist with and benefit from it.

A key factor would be to raise the level of NRI investments. Investment from NRI sources is

¹Balance of Payments Developments in the First Quarter 2009-10, Reserve Bank of India



most often to be found in equity markets and in real estate. Bank deposits are also a preferred destination for funds. As per available data, FDI from NRI sources amounts to less than 5% of total FDI received from India. While many FDI projects, private equity funds, mutual funds, and venture funds may be headed by PIOs, their direct participation in India's growth sectors is limited. FDI from NRIs is treated on par with other FDI, except in certain sectors, where they enjoy special privileges.

With the restructuring of the Indian economy underway at a fast pace, new opportunities for investment are unfolding, especially in emerging knowledge-based industry sectors of engineering design, new product development, IT, biotechnology, etc.

A few sectors of opportunity are mentioned below:

Manufacturing

Automotives- The opportunity in the sector extends to auto components, regional markets and design and R&D.

While import of vehicles in India is restricted, the parts and after markets are open and can benefit from the many new vehicle plants being built to address the local markets. More important, overseas companies can reduce costs by manufacturing in India for the Indian and regional markets. Addressing the original and afterparts markets will require benchmarking against top global standards of quality, which Indian operations would be able to meet as is seen in the factories of top Asian auto companies in India. India has the twin advantages of possessing one of the largest pools of talented scientists, engineers and technicians in the world, available at extremely competitive costs. Given the strength of overseas Indians in R&D and design, there are unexplored possibilities in addressing the sector.

Chemicals and pharmaceuticals- Chemical industry is an important constituent of the Indian economy estimated at US\$ 35 billion, which is about 3% of India's GDP, employing 1 million people in the country. It accounts for 13-14% of total exports and 8-9% of total imports of the country. In terms of volume, it is the 12th largest in the world and 3rd largest in Asia. Presently, India is the third largest fertilizer producer in the world. India has plans to set up huge chemical parks across the country, and overseas Indians can avail of the incentives offered under a scheme to offer services such as consultancy, maintenance, and servicing.

Textiles- India has strengths in home textiles and clothing and has end-to-end capacities



in a range of cotton and polyester yarn. It has potential to leverage its strengths in terms of creative inputs and lower costs. There is also a readymade market for new and latest technology in textile machinery. As mentioned earlier, overseas Indians should also explore India's vast range of handlooms and help in design, upgradation and modernisation of the sector to access global markets.

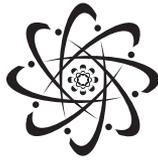
Infrastructure

The Indian infrastructure industry offers immense opportunities for investment and technological partnership. A new look at the progress of reforms in this field is needed, with serious consideration to partnering India in various sectors such as power, telecommunications, ports, road and highways and airports. As per India's Planning Commission, the total investment required for the infrastructure sector (at 2006-07 prices) will be of the order of over US\$ 492 billion between 2007 and 2012. The sectoral disaggregates show that 30.5% of the projected investments will be in power sector, 15.4% in roads and bridges, 13.2% in telecommunications, 12.6% in railways, 3.7% in ports, 1.7% in airports and the remaining in sectors like irrigation, gas, storage, water, sanitation etc.

Going further, it is estimated that the investment requirements during the ten year period 2007-2017 covering the 11th and 12th Five Year Plans would be of the order of USD 1.48 trillion. Private investment is expected to constitute more than 65 per cent of total investment in telecom, ports and airport sectors during the Eleventh Plan.

In view of the huge requirement of funds for the sector, a focused approach for private sector engagement in infrastructure can arise from companies involved in consultation and project management, machinery and equipment and construction by addressing projects from following sectors:

- Roads & bridges, railways, seaports, airports, inland waterways, other transportation projects;
- Power generation, distribution and transmission;
- Renewable energy
- Urban transport, water supply, sewerage, solid waste management and other physical infrastructure in urban areas;
- Gas pipelines
- Infrastructure projects in special economic zones
- Tourism related infrastructure including international convention centers



In roads and highways, out of total investment of US\$ 70 billion expected over the next 3-4 years, US\$ 45 billion are expected to come from private sector. Model Concession Agreement has been finalised for road projects in consultation with investors and financiers. 100% foreign direct investment is allowed for construction of road and bridges. 100% tax exemption for 12 years is available, to be availed in the first 20 years of operation, and duty free import of modern high capacity equipment for highway construction is permissible.

A special mention must be made of the opportunities arising in nuclear energy. India is expected to invest close to \$100 billion in nuclear energy to increase its capacity by 2032. Several sites for plants have already been identified and each site is expected to bear six to eight reactors of 1000-1500 mw.

Similarly, aviation, defence, and space sectors can take advantage of India's successful drive for expansion, modernisation and cutting-edge capacities. Offset clauses in government aircraft deals amount to 30-50% of the total cost, and extend to components, equipment, Maintenance and Repair Operations, and outsourcing. As the Indian aviation industry booms, the size of this market is expected to be \$10 billion in the next few years. Overseas Indians may explore opportunities arising from these deals across all segments, including skill development, training and consultancy services.

Services

Tourism - Tourism is one area that can benefit from mutual understanding and cultural interest. New areas such as medical tourism, adventure tourism, rural tourism, wildlife tourism etc can be explored. Overseas Indians can help build tourist infrastructure at key spots of their interest in India, similar to the way in which Japanese companies are investing in tourist infrastructure at Buddhist sites. India is an exotic and low-cost tourist destination, attracting visitors from all over the world, including PIOs.

ICT - The Indian ICT industry of IT, telecommunications and new media is among its top industry sectors. It is expected to continue growing during global economic turmoil due to addition of broadband capacities, web convergence, digital entertainment delivery and e-business. However, Indian SMEs need to elevate their IT usage, and the industry is also suffering from constraints in skilled human resources. There is thus great scope for overseas Indians for fruitful partnerships, especially in the area of technology upgradation and IT usage in SMEs. The Indian software technology industry is world-renowned and software and IT enabled service exports are expected to cross \$50 billion by 2010, retaining its spot as the world's largest exporter of such services.



Life Sciences: Indian biotechnology industry consists of large pool of scientific talent, world-class information technology industry and vibrant pharmaceutical sector. With a large population of over billion people, there is a huge market for products and services. The biotech sector in India is among its fast growing knowledge-based sectors with the country emerging as a biotechnology hub in recent times. The Indian biotech sector stands 4th in terms of volume and 13th in terms of value in the world. India has a large pool of skilled and cost competitive manpower, well developed and integrated scientific infrastructure, advanced chemical synthesis technologies, manufacturing practices conforming to US and EU norms, and diverse biological resources, and is being globally recognized as a producer of low cost, high quality bulk drugs and formulations. India's generic pharmaceutical industry is expected to grow rapidly as drugs come off patent in the next few years. The domestic market is over \$10 billion, while exports are \$4-5 billion and expected to expand at over 18% annually to 2011-12. India is also gaining importance as a clinical trial destination. The global clinical research outsourcing market is projected to touch US\$ 23 billion by 2011, with consultancy firm KPMG estimating that India will corner 15 per cent of this in two years. India is a hotbed of economic activity, and overseas Indians are best placed to be participants and beneficiaries of its rise.



OIFC Initiatives

1. OIFC continues to provide the investment information, advisory and handholding services, addressing a number of queries from the Indian diaspora with the help of its sectoral experts. To sustain effective and productive facilitation, OIFC has launched a membership drive inviting prominent industry players of India Inc, State Governments and investment facilitation agencies to become its partners. The membership is open to all associations overseas Indians, professional institutions and ethnic organizations for expanded networking opportunities and effective reach.
2. Sustained one-to-one interaction with the diaspora located globally, is the key to maintain expanded engagement and interlinkages of the target groups with India. In this process OIFC has organized interactive sessions with the diaspora, overseas, with one successfully concluded in United States of America, this year, in select cities of New York, San Francisco and Houston. Over the next year, OIFC plans to organize such sessions globally.
3. Connecting with the diaspora globally and inviting it to partner in India's development through OIFC has been a regular feature of the Centre. To spread this message, OIFC has participated in a number of diaspora initiatives undertaken by global associations of OI like GOPIO, Indian institution bodies like CII which organizes the KIPs regularly in association with the GOI, and in investor meets/conferences organized by state governments of India.
4. In an effort to build the knowledge exchange gap, OIFC, under the aegis of MOIA, is in the process of developing a Global Indian Network of knowledge (Global INK), a next generation electronic knowledge transfer platform that will connect people of Indian origin from a variety of disciplines, recognized as leaders in their fields, not just in their country of residence but globally as well, with knowledge users in India. The online web portal, as it evolves, will be a framework of moderated communities catering to issues of national importance.
5. In an effort to promote investment opportunities in India and serve as a catalyst for sustainable business partnerships, OIFC is in the process of creating an online business networking portal to connect the potential overseas Indian investors with a cross section of Indian businesses, SMEs among others to evolve successful partnerships and investment linkages. The portal will be displayed at PBD 2010 Market Place of OIFC, accepting registrations of interested groups.
6. To ease the process of investing in India, OIFC is coming out with an online 'Investment Tool Kit', a practical investment guide for the OI having the ability and willingness to invest in India. The print version of the toolkit will be made available during PBD 2010.
7. Over the next year, OIFC is planning to organize a series of Investor Meets globally, which were receded for a couple of months owing to the global financial downturn. Such Meets will provide the diapora with a first hand overview of the Indian investment market and the core opportunities which can be explored in the nation.



Concurrent Session – II

Leveraging Knowledge Networks: Global-ink

The flow of knowledge, expertise and ideas between India and overseas Indians is yet another example of the symbiotic two-way relationship that extends in both directions. As a section of the diaspora consists of highly educated and experienced persons who are at the forefront of their respective fields, India can gain much from their involvement in its human and community development activities. At the same time, India's reputed universities and schools have much to offer overseas Indians who are looking for affordable quality higher education and professional skills. At the last PBD, some speakers stressed that India should facilitate sharing of knowledge for diaspora students.

To bring together all the ideas and to share learning, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs launched the Global India Network for Knowledge or Global-INK as a single platform for interaction of overseas Indians located across the globe as well as to facilitate their participation in India's development efforts.

Overseas Indians are active in almost all fields of human endeavour. Their rich and diverse set of varied experiences imparts a high level of knowledge and expertise. Many overseas Indians who travel to India have suggestions on how best India can improve its procedures and policies for a better quality of life and standard of living. The Global INK website offers a chance to all overseas Indians, wherever residing, to connect with each other and with India, to establish networks for engaging in specified projects, and to discuss in an interactive manner the various issues confronting India's development, without having to relocate themselves.

At the core, its focus will revolve around 4 key activity areas:

- deliberating on issues of national importance in an effort to solve economic problems,
- execution of development projects with the help of expertise and specialized knowledge in particular areas,
- serving as a platform for operation of knowledge-user-community groups, to connect knowledge professionals of Indians origin
- cultivating and ensuring participation in relevant knowledge transfer programmes through Pro-Connect



To this end, Global-INK has identified specific fields of activity that broadly corresponds with the priorities set out in the Eleventh Five-Year Plan 2007-12. The broad fields of activity are: Infrastructure, Rural development, Innovation and Technology, Environment, Healthcare and Urban Development.

The online web platform is expected to be operational in its entirety by PBD 2010.

To meet the aspirations of Pravasis for quality education, a network of universities specifically for them is on the anvil. Higher education in India has attained high brand equity as Indian graduates have made their mark across the world. The cost of education in India is also relatively low as compared to other centers of higher education such as USA, UK, Australia and Singapore. Additionally, Pravasi parents feel that a few years in India will give their children a better understanding of the country of their forebears, and will help in strengthening their cultures.

Based the recommendations made by the High Level Committee on the Indian Diaspora, MOIA is in the process of setting up a PIO/NRI University for the benefit of children of overseas Indians. The University would be set up by Manipal Academy of Higher Education Trust (MAHET), Manipal at Bangalore, Karnataka. MAHET has submitted a Detailed Project Report (DPR). An Advisory Board has been constituted to evaluate the DPR with a view to ensure that it conforms to the academic and infrastructure standards prescribed by the concerned authorities like the University Grants Commission, AICTE, Medical Council of India, etc. The board held two meetings and approved, in principle, the DPR submitted by the MAHET. Based on a recommendation made by the Advisory Board, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs is presently engaged in drafting a bill to set up this PIO/NRI University under an Act of Parliament.

Expressions of Interest for setting up four more PIO/NRI Universities in different cities in India have also been called for.

Apart from the university, several schemes are available for diaspora children, including scholarships, reserved places at top universities, and overseas centers for entrance examinations. Most large Indian embassies have dedicated officers to deal with education issues and offer information to diaspora regarding the educational opportunities on offer for them in India.



Concurrent Session – III

Thousands of Fireflies: Diaspora Philanthropy

Just as thousands of fireflies can light up a dark sky with their sparkle, myriad small efforts can together contribute to building a better life for deprived denizens of India. Given that the overseas Indian community represents a wealth base of \$400 billion, there is high scope in channelizing philanthropy to the maximum benefit of donor and receiving communities. Successful overseas Indians are keen to share their funds and ideas with the people they left behind. But often they do not know how this can be done. The lack of a credible platform for offering services discouraged Pravasis, who could not be sure that their hard-won money was going for the right activities in the right civil society organizations.

The India Development Foundation for Overseas Indians was established by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs to fill the gap, and facilitate connectivity between overseas Indians desirous of giving back to India, and the institutions and organizations in the field that needed funds or effort. IDF is set up as a 'not for profit' trust to ensure a transparent process of philanthropic capital flow into various social causes and facilitate partnerships.

There are a number of small and large endeavours of PIOs in the philanthropic field. Top overseas corporate leaders have set up foundations to conduct specified developmental work in India. Individuals have left lucrative jobs to take up projects in villages. Many professionals volunteer time, energy and advice to NGOs. Others have set up trusts or organizations to combine community efforts. Schools, colleges, and hospitals have been set up by NRIs. Charity events are organised overseas to raise money for different purposes or specific NGOs. Sponsorships are undertaken, and money sent directly to panchayats. With little or no data or account maintained on the charitable work carried out by overseas Indians, anecdotal evidence alone would have to be relied upon to understand the extent of their activities and outlay.

The IDF attempts to structure and organize various activities while providing a shelf of possible projects for the choice of overseas Indians. It would also need to assemble data and highlight success stories that can inspire further work. The broad objectives of the Trust are to:

1. Lead overseas Indian philanthropy into India; facilitate partnerships through single window facilitation and by building public private partnerships.



2. Establish and maintain a 'Social Capital and Philanthropy Network' in India that can provide a list of credible institutions, projects and programmes.
3. Function as a clearing house for all philanthropy related information.
4. Partner with states in India and encourage credible Indian philanthropic organizations to project social development opportunities to overseas Indians in the sectors that best match national priorities including empowerment of rural women.
5. Promote accountability and 'good practices' in diaspora philanthropy.

India Development Foundation of Overseas Indians, is a not-for-profit trust registered by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, Government of India, to provide a credible window for overseas Indian philanthropy in India's social development. The objective of the foundation is to facilitate philanthropic activities by Overseas Indians including through innovative projects and instruments such as micro credit for rural entrepreneurs, self help groups for economic empowerment of women, best practice interventions in primary education and technology interventions in rural health care delivery. The foundation is at 'arms length' from Government and is managed by an eminent Board of Trustees. The mandate of the foundation is to lead Overseas Indians philanthropic capital into India's Social Sector by forging partnerships between donors and credible non-government and non-profit voluntary organisations working in the Social Sector in India.

The trust is exempt from the provisions of FCRA under Section 31 of the Act. The foundation will subject all philanthropic activities to International Accounting Standards and through objective criteria encourage credible partnerships while weeding out the less credible organizations. The IDF online portal will soon be functional.

Some examples of philanthropic work by overseas Indians are given below from various internet sources.

The Ambika Paul Foundation, set up by Lord Swraj Paul, promotes education, culture and health around the world and no more so than in India where projects include the development of a cultural Centre, a School of Manufacturing and Material Technology, a sports stadium and community health centre.

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Some seven years ago, two young men, chums from their days at boarding school, chatted over the Internet about what they might do for villages in their home state of Bihar. The company they went on to create has begun establishing small power plants driven by gases from rice husk, a widely available agricultural waste. There are big plans for the future.

From the very beginning, “we wanted decentralised production,” said Gyanesh Pandey, an electrical engineer who worked for the semiconductor industry in the U.S. at the time and returned to India two years back.

With a small power generation system, the distribution network could be simple and strictly local. This would keep costs down, which was essential for their venture to be financially sustainable.

They were clear too that they wanted to use an environmentally friendly form of energy, he said, speaking to this correspondent about the early discussions with his friend Ratnesh Yadav. (Later, another friend from his college days, Manoj Sinha, a microprocessor designer in the U.S., joined them.)

Husk Power Systems, the company they established, now has 16 plants in place. Each plant generates between 35 kilowatts and 100 kilowatts of electricity. The power is being supplied to about 60 villages at present.

- ‘Green’ Electricity for Bihar Villages, N. Gopal Raj, The Hindu, 24 November 2009

Previously a management consultant with McKinsey & Company, Vikram Akula has over a decade of work and research experience in microfinance. Launched in 1998, SKS Microfinance is one of the fastest growing microfinance organizations in the world, having provided over **US \$ 2.05 Billion** (9,840 Crore) and has maintained loans outstanding of **US\$ 671 Million** (Rs 3,222 Crore) in loans to **5,301,181** women members in poor regions of India. Borrowers take loans for a range of income-generating activities, including livestock, agriculture, trade (such as vegetable vending), production (from basket weaving to pottery) and new age businesses (Beauty Parlor to photography). SKS also offers interest-free loans for emergencies as well as life insurance to its members. Its NGO wing SKS foundation runs the Ultra Poor Program. SKS currently has microfinance branches in 19 states across India. SKS aims to reach members 15 million by 2012. In the last year alone, SKS Microfinance has achieved nearly 170 % growth, with 99% on-time repayment rate.

The Mittal Champions Trust supports and funds talented sportspersons and potential Olympic medal winners to enable them to access the best specialists in the world. Their mandate is to take care of the needs of future champions, so that they can compete with the best in the world on a level playing field. The trust was set up by steel magnate Lakshmi Niwas Mittal with the sole objective of promoting excellence in sports in India. At present, the trust is supporting athletes in squash, archery, boxing, shooting, swimming, athletics and sailing.

Dr. Suri Sehgal holds a PhD in plant genetics from Harvard University, and a diploma in



business management from Harvard Business School. Institute Of Rural Research And Development IRRAD is an initiative of the S M Sehgal Foundation, registered as a Trust since 1999 to further the wellbeing of rural communities in India. IRRAD envisions rural people across India motivated and empowered to make their lives more secure and prosperous through education, better health, improved skills and supportive governance. IRRAD's village-based Project Implementation Teams work closely with both the communities and their Panchayats (village councils). Where Panchayats are inactive, IRRAD helps the community establish a Village Level Institution (VLI - Gram Vikas Sanstha in Hindi) to advance their initiatives. Clusters of villages are supported by establishing Community Centers that provide facilities for training, demonstration, information, and services including a library, computer room, Life Skills Education (LSE) classroom, farmers' information cell, and limited residential accommodation for volunteers. Individuals showing natural leadership talent and initiative are trained to become Village Champions who spark the ISVD approach within their communities

When Virendra 'Sam' Singh, head of DuPont's South Asia operations, returned after 35 years in the US, he did not pick a condominium in one of New Delhi's upscale suburbs to settle down. He went back to Bichaula, near Anupshahr in UP's Bulandshahr, where he was born and where nothing much had changed since he left. The man who once sat in boardrooms to discuss strategies and dealt with textile magnates now sits under a jamun tree. Around him are some of the 350 village girls whose lives have changed since Singh's return. He has set up a vocational school for them. Why not boys? "If you teach a girl, you teach a family," he says. These are the daughters of landless farmers. If they were not coming to Pardada Pardadi Vocational School, they would either be stealing grass or firewood.

Sricharan Gopakumar is not your average teenager. Not just because Harry Potter does not fascinate him, but because he is sensitive to a lot of things that children his age may, perhaps, not be aware of.

For the 13-year-old, who has finished class seven in California, this vacation in India has been "very interesting."

Sricharan has been volunteering with Aid India, a non-governmental organisation engaged in several developmental projects, especially for children. He has been writing, editing and, more importantly, learning a lot.

The books on plants and deserts compiled by him will soon reach thousands of children who do not have access to educative reading material. He was flown to the United States as a three-month-old baby from Bangalore, after his father found a job there.



Gosain Bigha, (Bihar Times): Last Sunday of every month is special for the people of 'Gosain Bigha' and surrounding villages of Nawada in Bihar. A team of medical professionals visits this remote village from Patna for a special medical camp for the village poor. The unusual name of this monthly camp "Himwari Chiktsalya" surprises a bit due to its Japanese origin meaning 'Sunflower'. It was started by a NRI Arjun Gupta settled in Japan. Gupta being closely attached to his native village regularly visits this poor village mostly inhabited by small farmers and agriculture laborers.

Patna: A seven-year-old boy who was forced to earn and take care of his two younger cousins in a Bihar village is now being offered help by a number of non-resident Indians.

Govinda, a resident of Sonepur village in Saran district, about 50 km from Patna, dropped out of school and did odd jobs to feed himself and his cousins Sonu, 5, and Pinky, 3, after his mother's death. He was deserted by his father.

He sought support from some villagers but in vain. Now that his plight has been publicised, over a dozen NRIs have offered support to Govinda.

"NRIs approached us to help Govinda to get out of this difficult situation," said Rajesh Kumar Thakur, a reporter in a Hajipur newspaper. He had highlighted Govinda's plight last week. Thakur said Britain-based NRIs Upendra Mane, Joyti Balraj, Chandra K Sekhar and US-based Rim Jhim Kapoor have offered to help Govinda.

Katihar, a small town in Bihar, is today providing tech support to public and private sector firms in California - thanks to the efforts of Silicon Valley entrepreneur Ravi Verma.

Verma, who hails from Katihar, around 350 km from Patna, is the CEO of Telecommand Software and Services in the Silicon Valley that maintains the Entrepreneur Resource Planning (ERP) systems of the state of California.

ERP systems integrate all data and processes of an organisation into a single unified system.

"I am from Katihar. I invested some dollars here because I feel charity should begin at home. It was my childhood dream to do something for my native place," Verma said.

California-based Bansari Shah, 23, follows the mantra 'catch them young'. Just that here she's not on any marketing mission. Instead, her goal is to educate children and youth in rural Gujarat about proper health and hygiene practices.

It all started when she took some time off from her undergraduate studies in 2004 and visited India to volunteer at a Mumbai hospital with Cancer Patients Aid Association



(CPAA). The plight of the families, who were compelled to migrate from villages and live huddled together in 'kholis' while the patient battled with cancer, motivated her to form an NGO — Suhani Kal (A bright future) — focused on disease prevention through health and hygiene.

Since then, Bansari, now a student at the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine has visited India twice with a team of volunteers providing medical care to 1,200 patients from Moti Khakar, Nani Khakar, Ramaniya, Kherva, and Anindra villages of Gujarat.

Raj Loomba raised 250,000 pounds (over \$500,000) for poor widows in India including 25,000 pounds for the Safer London Foundation at a charity Diwali dinner in London.

He also held another charity Diwali dinner in New York. Over the last 10 years, he has raised 1.5 million pounds for this worthy cause.

The Loomba Trust works to raise awareness of and care for poor widows and their dependants. The main focus of the trust is to educate the children of poor widows to break the vicious cycle of poverty caused by widowhood. It has achieved its initial target of educating at least 100 children in each of India's 29 states. That totals 2,900 children.

Another 500 were added in Tamil Nadu after the tsunami. Currently, the trust is educating 3,600 children of poor widows in India.

Ten years after it was set up, the trust has expanded its work to Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Kenya and South Africa and plans to work in Nepal and Uganda in future. Its international work took off last year with partnership programmes in South Africa and Bangladesh; and Sri Lanka and Kenya in partnership with Youth Business International of Prince Charles and Virgin United of Sir Richard Branson.



Concurrent Session – IV

Diaspora Women in Cross-Cultural Environments

The horrific incident in UK of a woman of Indian origin being found with her hand cut off and serious head injuries, who later died in hospital, refocused attention on some of the major issues faced by diaspora women. It has been estimated that despite the intervention of community organizations, about one in four overseas Indian women face some kind of abuse, physical, mental, or societal, in their lives.

At the other end of the spectrum, PIO women are among the most productive and high-achieving sections of their respective economies. As entrepreneurs, academicians, politicians, and professionals, many of them have earned top spots in their fields, and are leaders of their communities. The overseas Indian woman can truly be a 'change agent' as was suggested at the previous PBD. Other concrete recommendations that emanated from PBD 09 related to establishment of a separate web portal for interaction between PIO women across the world, nurturing entrepreneurship, establishing a separate day for discussing women's issues at PBD and strengthening partnerships with NGOs, among others.

The confident new overseas Indian woman can be a catalyst for strengthening cultural relations across borders. Cross cultural relations signify better understanding of diversity, closer interaction of dissimilar cultural groups, and stronger and more effective communication across borders. Overseas Indian women have a unique advantage in promoting intercultural relations due to their cosmopolitan experiences, high comfort levels in diverse situations, and their ability to communicate and easily shift from one cultural mode to another. It is this advantage that has made many of them leaders in shaping strategies in their particular fields.

A key theme for overseas Indian women in managing their diverse lives is cultural assimilation. This refers to the ease of the minority in adapting to the majority and concomitantly, the changes in cultural practices of the majority in imbibing from the minority. Immigrant populations are harbingers of change – not only do they undergo shifts in their own ethos and traditions, often dramatic, but they also significantly impact lifestyles of the native populations. Full cultural assimilation theoretically is complete when native and immigrant populations are indistinguishable. In practice, however, such complete assimilation may be utopian, as has been experienced in diverse cultures sharing the same geographical space but not a common cultural space over centuries of living



together. The exception may be USA, a land of constant immigration which has been a melting pot of cultures.

Sociologists and anthropologists use four denominators to check the level of cultural assimilation - intermarriage, geographical dispersion, socioeconomic status and language ability. It may take several generations for accomplishing a measure of assimilation between immigrants and native populations. Cross cultural assimilation and relations have mostly been studied in the context of successive European migrations to USA. The experiences of other ethnic groups are less researched. For Indian emigrants, there have been varying outcomes in cultural assimilation. In many areas such as Mauritius, the Caribbean, and other island states, Indians have integrated and created hybrid cultures. In others, they remain a distinct ethnic group, separate from native populations spatially and culturally. In yet another experience, they have strong links with local populations and are part of them, but also manage to retain some of their traditions. In the Indian context of caste, intermarriage with local people is still not a common practice, although it is becoming more frequent now.

Women are often the flag-bearers of the assimilation and cross cultural relationship-building processes. First-generation women tend to cling to the security and comfort of their traditions, customs and festivals. They will be imperfect speakers of the local language and will adhere to their behaviour codes. The second generation finds itself most conflicted as it grows up within two entirely different milieus, shifting personae from school to home, from workplace to community. Fluent in their mother-tongue as well as in the local language, they have to meet expectations of their parents as well as those of the society in which they exist.

The third generation is often most at ease with itself, having found for itself the balance of local and traditional cultures that it wants to maintain. Food, language, festivals, etc. may continue to be followed at varying degrees, but the younger generation is no longer compelled to stick to practices that it feels do not synchronise with its emerging lifestyle. Women of this and succeeding generations are happy visiting India, yet equally happy not having any links with it. They view themselves as part of the local population, at par with other diverse groups that may exist in their societies.

Given strong patriarchal traditions of India, the overseas Indian woman may have little interface with local populations. The practice of returning to India for brides is still widely followed, leading to a constant movement of young girls overseas with little idea of what to expect. Cases of fraud, abuse, abandonment, and general subjugation are frequent enough to have been raised at previous PBD. The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has therefore given a key position to discussion of gender issues in the annual conference.



Some of the initiatives taken by MOIA for women include:

1. Scheme for Giving Legal /Financial Assistance to Indian Women Deserted by Their Overseas Indian Spouses: The Ministry had launched a scheme in February, 2007 to provide legal and financial assistance through Indian Missions abroad to Indian women deserted or divorced by their overseas Indian spouses.
2. Awareness Campaign to Educate Prospective Brides and Their Families: MOIA had earlier brought out guidance booklet on "Marriage to Overseas Indians" in English version. This booklet contains information on safeguards available to women deserted by their NRI spouses, legal remedies available, authorities that can be approached for redressal of grievances and NGOs which can provide assistance. The guidance booklet in Hindi, Telugu and Punjabi versions has been released to create awareness in the regions having higher incidents of fraudulent NRI marriages.
3. Grant- In –Aid to Indian Society of International Law (ISIL): The Ministry has granted financial assistance of Rs. 2.00 lakh to ISIL New Delhi in bringing out the publication of the book "Non Resident Indians and Private International Law."
4. Constitution of Inter-Ministerial Committee to Find Ways And Means to Help Indian Women Deserted by Their Overseas Indian Husbands: An Inter-Ministerial sub - committee was constituted in the Ministry under the chairmanship of the Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs comprising of representatives from various Ministries and Government Organizations.

After due consideration of the recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial sub-committee, an Inter Ministerial meeting under the chairmanship of Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs took the following decisions :

- All marriages solemnized in India should be compulsorily registered and pro-forma for certificates of registration of marriages should be uniform in all states and should contain all relevant information that would help in identifying the persons.
- Litigations related to overseas Indian marriages should be taken up by fast track courts. It was felt that instead of building up a new system for these courts, this should be brought within the scope of the existing family courts.
- Provisions on serving of notices, summons, enforcement of maintenance orders should be made part of the mutual legal assistance treaties (MLAT) especially with USA, UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand where problem of desertion of Indian women by overseas Indians is acute.



- The possibility of creating a flexi-fund for assisting distressed women in legal cases overseas may also be explored by pooling of money by Indian Associations.
- A vigorous information campaign is necessary at all levels using the media and NGOs to educate prospective brides and their families to take possible precautions before entering into marriage alliance with overseas Indians.
- States/Union Territories should pass on information regarding court orders against accused NRIs to Emigration Authorities to prevent such people from leaving India against court orders.
- Appropriate bilateral agreements may be considered with foreign countries with a view to protect the interests of Indian women victims of overseas Indian marriages.
- On the recommendation made by the Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women to evolve a well defined/coordinated mechanism among all the concerned agencies to deal with the issue of problematic NRI marriages and to enable the aggrieved women to get a respectable solution to the problems, it was decided that the National Commission for Women will be the coordinating agency at the national level to receive and process all the complaints related to deserted Indian women by overseas Indians.

While appropriate action is to be taken by relevant ministries and state governments, the National Commission for Women has set up a cell to deal with difficulties facing overseas Indian women.

Functions of NRI Cell

- a. Shall be the coordinating agency to receive and process all the complaints related to Indian Women deserted by their Overseas Indian husbands.
- b. Shall render all possible assistance to the complaints including conciliation, mediation between the parties and advising the complainant on related issues.
- c. Associating, networking with NGO's ,community organizations in India and abroad and State women Commissions for wider area coverage, so as to facilitate easy reach and provide support services.
- d. Shall endeavor towards a coordinated response amongst various Government agencies/organizations such as State Governments, The National Human Rights Commission, Indian Embassies and Mission, concerned Ministries etc.



- e. Providing assistance to the aggrieved woman in litigation and other issues pertaining to the complainant/case.
- f. Shall maintain a data bank record of cases registered.
- g. Seek reports from the State Government and other authorities on the complaints filed and action taken thereon.
- h. Shall advice and recommend the government on any policy or issue relating to the NRI marriages.
- i. Analyse various legal treaties on the issue and advice the Government on the subject, wherever required.
- j. Shall constitute a ADVISORY COMMITTEE panel of reputed advocates/NGOs, both in India as well as abroad, which shall periodically review the functioning of the cell, cases filed and policy issues.
- k. Shall constitute a panel of experts (All India) to assist the aggrieved wife and rendering legal services and other assistance , including mediation and conciliation
- l. Planning of training modules & carrying out training on sensitization on the subject to the various agencies entrusted with the task of providing justice, vig. Judiciary, police, administration, etc.
- m. Shall carry out awareness campaigns for the masses on the issue. For this, all the available media services would be utilized by the cell.
- n. Shall encourage /support research and study in the related field like issues of grievances associated with dual citizenship, enactment of new legislation or signing of international treaties ,marriage laws of other countries ,etc .
- o. Shall look into complaints and take suo-moto notice on any issue brought to the notice of the NRI Cell in accordance with Section 10 (1)(f) of the National Commission for Women Act , 1990 read with sub-section 4 of Section 10 and Section 8 of the Act.
- p. The cell shall regulate its own procedures in accordance with the National Commission for Women Act 1990
- q. Perform any other function as assigned to it by the Commission/Central



PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS 2009

Proceedings - Executive Summary

The seventh Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) convention was held for the first time, at the Chennai Trade Centre, in the capital of the southern state of Tamil Nadu. As always, the event was held from the 7 – 9 January 2009, to commemorate the date on which the Father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi returned to India in 1915. The flagship convention of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs was an overwhelming success and was partnered by the Government of Tamil Nadu. The Confederation of Indian Industry was the Institutional partner.

Over the previous six editions, the PBD process has been consolidated and become more focused. The key objective of the PBD is the economic, social and cultural engagement between India and people of Indian origin based overseas in a partnership mode that best meets the diverse needs of both sides. Taking into account the different socio-economic profiles and varying histories of overseas Indians, the PBD includes regional sessions to highlight the challenges and opportunities facing them in different parts of the world. At the same time, to intensify their interaction with their places of origin, states of India are invited to connect directly in the fields of human development and culture.

Dr Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India, inaugurated the convention. Stressing that tolerance and comfort with varying creeds and cultures was a distinct identity of Indians and people of Indian origin, he said that India would not allow the recent attacks on Mumbai to destabilise its economy and polity. On the global economic crisis currently adversely impacting all nations, he expressed confidence that the Indian economy would weather the downturn and urged overseas Indians to participate in India's development.

The Prime Minister announced that overseas Indian professionals in some identified fields, holding Overseas Citizen of India cards, could now practice their profession in India. He launched the website of the Global Indian Network for Knowledge to facilitate exchange of information between India and the diaspora, as well as the e-governance project for migration of workers. He also released three publications on the occasion.

The Chief Guest on the occasion, H E Mr. Ramdien Sardjoe, Vice President of Suriname, traced the close relationship of his country with India and said that a spirit of brotherhood is infused in the politics of Suriname. He supported India in its fight against terrorism, and identified various areas of cooperation.



Mr Vayalar Ravi, Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs, suggested that specialized groups within the diaspora have a more significant role and proposed that a conference of Parliamentarians of Indian origin be organized in the near future. Second, it is important to nurture the connectivity of overseas Indian youth to India.

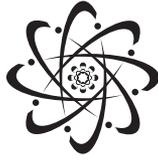
Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Mr Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi lauded the role of overseas Indians for their contributions to their countries and for building positive perceptions about India. He highlighted the advantages of Tamil Nadu as an investment destination and welcomed participants to partner in its development.

The plenary, concurrent and working sessions were different from past PBDs in being highly interactive, encouraging debates and ideas from the floor. A number of valuable suggestions were elicited in this format. The Plenary sessions of the three-day event stressed important developments taking place in the world, including the role of the Indian community in the emergence of India as a global power. A special Plenary was held to discuss the global economic crisis, the impact on India, and the challenges arising from recent developments for Indian communities.

The Plenary session with the States was a highly interactive one, featuring representatives from various State governments, including Mr YS Rajasekhara Reddy, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, and Mr Narendra Modi, Chief Minister of Gujarat. Dr Montek Singh Ahluwalia outlined the overall economic growth of India and moderated questions from the floor. The concerns of the diaspora in maintaining cultural identity and preserving traditional mother-tongues were addressed in the final Plenary.

Concurrent sessions were held on the importance of building bridges between the diaspora and India across different fields such as trade and investment, philanthropy, education and health. These built on previous PBD conventions to highlight new ideas for taking forward the engagement of the diaspora in India's economic and human development. A new session on media and entertainment brought out the role of overseas Indian media in uniting communities and helping local governments understand their concerns. The session on interaction with women stressed that women could be change-agents and that a special forum could be instituted to bring them together.

At the State sessions, six States presented their economic growth and development plans, and the various incentives and facilitation that they provided for overseas investors. Each State had the opportunity to showcase its own particular strengths and areas of opportunity. A strong pitch was made to invite investments and offer every support to investors.



The seven regional sessions covered the concerns of diaspora in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Canada, the Caribbean, Europe, Gulf, and USA. It was highlighted that overseas Indian communities in less prosperous nations needed a high level of support from their mother country. A call for expanding educational opportunities for diaspora children in these nations was made in several sessions. Participants also stressed that overseas Indians could be a bridge for Indian investments in these countries. For diaspora in developed countries, the concerns pertained to inadequate support for investment and social ventures in India. All the sessions called for mini-PBDs to be held in their respective regions.

Smt Pratibha Devisingh Patil, President of India, addressed the Valedictory Session and conferred the prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards on 13 distinguished individuals, including HE Ramdien Sardjoe, Vice President of Suriname. In her speech, she felicitated the overseas Indians community for their successes overseas and said that they could benefit from economic opportunities in India, particularly in infrastructure.

She stressed that their engagement with India would be a rebuff to terrorists. The President lauded the role of overseas Indian workers who remit high amounts of funds and advised a separate award to honor their contributions.

Vibrant cultural performances from top artistes enlivened the evenings, while a variety of stalls in the exhibition area attracted tremendous interest from the participants. The Overseas Indian Facilitation Center handled hundreds of visitors and responded to many queries relating to investment in India.

SPONSOR'S PROFILE



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State Bank of India, India's largest bank was founded over two centuries ago and is the flagship of Indian banking. Today the State Bank Group in addition to banking, provides a whole range of financial services which include Life Insurance, Merchant Banking, Mutual Funds, Credit Card, Factoring, Securities Trading and Primary Dealership in Money Market.

State Bank of India :

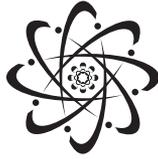
- Is the Only Indian Bank in the elite group of Fortune 500 companies
- Has been adjudged the Bank of the year 2009 by The Banker Magazine
- Has Group Assets worth over \$ 187 Billion
- Has a group network of over 16,000 branches

We are the bank of choice for Indians living in any part of India and are one of the first Indian banks to adopt latest technology platform to provide our customers with more options in terms of delivery channels, products and services. For the sheer scale, speed and complexity of implementing the Core Banking Solution, the Bank has received international recognition. All our branches are fully computerized and all the over 10,000 branches are on the core banking platform facilitating anywhere banking. Over 10,000 branches are Internet enabled and offer online banking services to over 20 lakh retail users and 1 lakh corporate users.

We have been a pioneer in NRI banking and have a presence in 32 countries across all time-zones. With 141 foreign offices and Correspondent Banking relations with over 522 Global Banks, we serve the largest number of NRIs. Our remittance products are unique and customized to suit the needs of NRIs wishing to send money home, quickly and safely. With more than 16,000 networked core banking branches of the State Bank Group we ensure that your money reaches your loved ones well in time for any urgent need through our 'Instant Transfer' facility now operational from 18 foreign offices. If you intend to domicile your account or buy a property back home or gift a car to a near relative, you're not far from an SBI branch. As NRIs, you can also enjoy internet banking facilities and operate your accounts across the country under "anywhere banking facility" through any of the networked branches / ATMs.

Visit us at : www.onlinesbi.com/nri, www.sbi.co.in, www.statebankofindia.com

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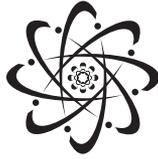
ZEE ENTERTAINMENT ENTERPRISES LIMITED

135, Continental Building, Dr. Annie Besant Road, Worli, Mumbai

Zee International, the leading entertainment channel of choice caters to the South Asian diaspora, reaching out to 167 countries & 500 million viewers across the globe. The numero uno Media & Entertainment Company transports the essence of India through its leading channels, Zee TV, Zee Cinema, Zee Music, Zee Sports & Zee Punjabi. Non resident Indians, have a strong sense of attachment with their roots which manifests itself through art, music ,dance & drama all of which find their space and connect on our channels. Zee International is the unifying factor which bridges these gaps by delivering an unparalleled mix of soaps, reality shows, comedy, drama, children’s programmes, game shows, musical shows & late night shows targeted to all age groups.

Attracting the mainstream audience in the global market the Zee group has introduced Veria, a health & wellness channel in the Americas, Zee Aflam a dedicated movie channel in the Middle East, and in the general entertainment category we have Zee in Malaysia and Zee Russia in Russia. The localized content constitutes an integral part of the TV consumption of the locals in this market bringing Indian culture & entertainment to the global front.

With over 14 years of broadcasting in international shores and the undeniable loyalty of its viewers, Zee International channels continuously strives to woo audiences all over the world. The Zee network has truly widened its horizons to be trusted among the biggest entertainment conglomerates in the world.



AIR INDIA ON THE UPSWING

Air India is India's finest flying Ambassador. Air India was founded in 1932 as Tata Airlines by Indian entrepreneur J.R.D. Tata. The merger of the two erstwhile airlines, Air India and Indian, has helped the new Air India become a major force in the airlines industry.

The unified Air India, with a large fleet, which includes state-of-the-art aircraft, a wide domestic and international network, skilled technical work force and huge infrastructure, is all set to consolidate its position as the leading aviation company of the country.

The induction of new aircraft has enabled Air India to not only significantly expand and modernize its fleet, but also helped in offering passengers a new era of unprecedented comfort. Non-stop flights have already been introduced between Mumbai-New York and Delhi-New York, following the induction of B777-200LRs, the B777-300ERs, with fully flat beds in Executive and First Class, more leg room in Economy class.

The reach of the superior product operated with B777s has also been extended to cover other destinations such as Newark, Chicago, Toronto, London, Paris and Frankfurt and also to Tokyo. From December 01, 2009, the daily Non Stop flight Delhi-New York has been extended to the US capital city, Washington.

Come, try the new Air India.

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