

9th REGIONAL PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS
LOS ANGELES, USA .14-15 NOVEMBER 2015

1. The 9th Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (RPBD) Convention was organized in **Los Angeles** on 14-15 November, 2015 by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) with active participation and coordination by the Consulate General of India in San Francisco. The purpose of the event was to provide a platform for engagement with the Indian Diaspora in USA, especially on the West Coast. This was the first such Diaspora meet organized by Ministry California, which is home " to a large number of persons from the Indian Diaspora". The main theme of the RPBD Convention was "**Indian Diaspora - Defining a new Paradigm in India-US Relations**".
2. The two day Convention saw a participation of around 1,100 participants including Members of the Diaspora, overseas delegates, speakers, exhibitors, state government officials, media, celebrities, etc. These included senior official delegations from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana (headed by a Cabinet Minister), Haryana, Jharkhand and Kerala.
3. An "**Indian Diaspora Business Meet**" was organized on 14 November 2015 to encourage business interactions and propagate Government of India's programs including Make in India, Swacha Bharat, Namami Gange etc. as well as to invite investments, entrepreneurs and technology to India. This event co-organized by the Overseas India Facilitation Center (OIFC- a PPP between MOIA and CII) and the Consulate General of India included three well attended Panel Discussions on "Investment Opportunities in Clean & Renewable Energy Sector in India" "Technology Partnerships, Investment & Innovation" and "Impact Investments into Social Enterprises in India". Several business meetings were also facilitated by OIFC between interested companies following these sessions. OIFC led a 31 member business delegation which included Indian companies from Haryana, , Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Gujarat, Punjab , Maharashtra , Bihar .
4. The programme for the RPBD included an "**inaugural reception**" on 14th November 2015, which was attended by nearly 1,100 persons including by Senior US Congressmen Brad Sherman and Tony Cardenas, Congresswomen Ms. Judy Chu & Ms. Janice Hahn, California State Treasurer John Chiang, California State Assembly member Matt Dababneh along with Ambassador of India to US Arun K Singh, Secretary MOIA Shri Anil Kumar Aggarwal, Consul General of India Ambassador V. Ashok ,leading members of the Indian-American Diaspora, celebrities like Gulshan Grover, etc. A cultural performance showcasing Indian culture and dance forms was also staged for the audience.

5. The event was organized with the assistance of Consulate General of India, San Francisco and Embassy of India, Washington D.C, and several Indian Associations based in USA.

6. The following sessions were held during the RPBD on 15 Nov. 2015:

- (i) Increasing engagement with Diaspora.
- (ii) Government of India Programms and Role of the Diaspora.
- (iii) Role of Culture and Youth in Sustaining Links.
- (iv) Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- (v) Business Opportunities in India
- (vi) Education, Skills and Vocational Training
- (vii) Soft Power-Yoga and Bollywood-Hollywood Connect.

7. On 15th November, Hon'ble Minister of State General (Retd.) Dr. V.K. Singh, delivered an inaugural address of the conferences. Hon'ble MoS said that the Regional PBD is an important platform through which the Government connects with the overseas Indian community in specific countries. He highlighted the new policies, initiatives and schemes of the Government of India in various sectors, and invited the Indian Diaspora to participate in these programmes, and contribute to these initiatives including through transfer of knowledge, technology and other form of contributions.