



Consulate General of India
Johannesburg



Celebration of 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas
(21-23 January, 2019 at Varanasi, India)

Greetings from the Consulate General of India in Johannesburg. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention is the flagship event of the Government of India and provides an important platform to engage and connect with the Diaspora of Indian Origin. The theme of PBD 2019 is "Role of Indian Diaspora in building a New India." The 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention is being organized from **21 to 23 January 2019 at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**. After the Convention, we have the pleasure to inform you that participants would be given the opportunity to visit **Prayagraj for Kumbh Mela on 24th January, 2019** and witness the **Republic Day Parade at New Delhi on 26th January 2019**.

2. On 21st January, 2019, the inauguration of the Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas will be held in partnership with Ministry of Youth affairs and Sports. Government of Uttar Pradesh will also organize the State PBD - 2019 on 21st January, 2019. On 22nd January, 2019, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention. On 23rd January, 2019, the Valedictory Address will be delivered and Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards will be conferred by Hon'ble President, Shri Ram Nath Kovind.

3. On the invitation of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa, will be the Chief Guest for the Indian Republic Day Parade. Mr. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Prime Minister of Mauritius, will be the Chief Guest of the Convention. Mr. Himanshu Gulati, Member of Parliament of Norway, will be the Special Guest and Mr. Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi, Member of Parliament of New Zealand will be the Guest of Honour at the Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas on 21st January, 2019.

4. The important elements of the mega-event of PBD 2019 include:

a) The entire duration of the programme spans six days - from 21 January to 26 January, 2019; however, participation in Kumbh Mela and witness Republic Day Parade is optional.

b) The participants will have the option to choose their stay either in hotel or tented Swiss cottages in Varanasi when they register on the website. Tented

accommodations will be arranged at Prayagraj near the Sangam for those who choose to partake in the Kumbha Mela. As number of accommodation in Prayagraj and number of tickets for Republic Day Parade are limited, these would be provided on first come first serve basis.

c) We are also arranging for their local transport for pick and drop to the venue and guided tours for local sightseeing in and around Varanasi and Prayagraj, including visit to Kashi Vishwanath temple and River Ganga Aarti at Varanasi. Participants will be taken to Prayagraj in Special AC Volvo coaches and brought back to Delhi in Special AC trains. Arrangements are also being made for their participation in the Republic Day Parade.

d) Lunches and dinners will be arranged for all the 3 days of PBD Convention. Our Diaspora participants will also experience India's rich cultural heritage and progress and innovation through Cultural Evenings and Exhibitions that are being arranged as part of PBD 2019.

e) Witness the historic state visit of Honourable Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa as the Chief Guest of the Indian Republic Day Parade 2019 in New Delhi on 26 January 2019.

5. As a prominent Diaspora member, you are requested to encourage all your members to register online and participate in 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas at Varanasi. Please disseminate this information to members of your organisation and among family & friends.

6. **For registration and more details, please visit: www.pbdindia.gov.in. The last date for registration is the 10th January 2019.** For any queries and assistance, you may write to hocoffice@indconjoburg.co.za and cgoffice@indconjoburg.co.za or can contact the Consulate at 011 482 8484.