



Vibrant India

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Pravasi Bhartiya Divas - Launch of 'Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojna'

Wherever the Indian Diaspora went, in whichever part of the world; they have made their own 'Pradesh'. The diaspora have carried with them not only their quality of endurance and patience but also the culture and civilization of the country. The 30 million Indian diaspora spread worldwide has made India proud with their various contributions. In today's times, the Indian diaspora is considered to be a powerful force to reckon with in the international arena. The Indian diaspora has also shown commitment towards the development of the country. The cultural affinity continues to bind us together and rather it is the strongest bond which binds Mother India and its children abroad. In the realm of building a strong and prosperous India, the diaspora can play a great role. The Pravasi Bhartiya Sammelan is a great occasion to promote the strong bond amongst each other in order to strengthen the cultural ties and inspire us to work together for a better world.

The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) convention is a very important platform for engagement of the Government of India and the State Governments with the overseas Indian community. The PBD is traditionally held on January 9 every year to commemorate the return of Mahatma Gandhi as 'Pravasi' from South Africa to India. This day is celebrated to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community to the development of India. This year the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas was held in Bengaluru, Karnataka. At present, there are 3.12 crore overseas Indians globally, out of which 1.34 crore are Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) and 1.7 crore Non Resident Indians (NRIs). The PBD also provided a platform for connecting with the Diaspora. It addressed issues of concern to the Indian diaspora with the motive to seek their insights and



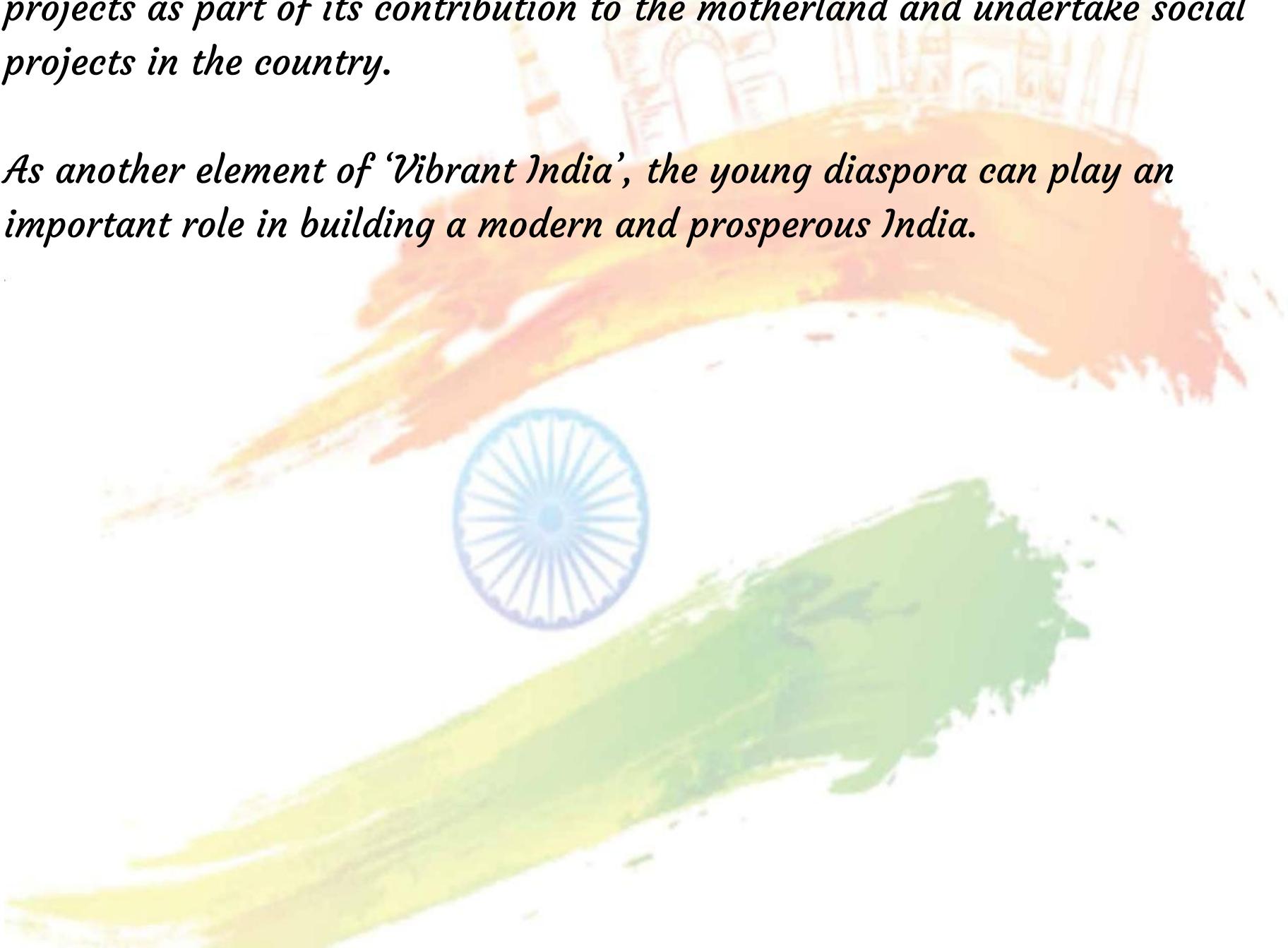
suggestions. Focus was also made to deepen engagement with the young Diaspora and reconnect them with their roots.

In the process of transforming India, once again, the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has introduced a new scheme *Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PKVY)* on 09 January 2017. This Yojanaa is a skill development program targeted at the Indian youth seeking overseas employment to make India the 'Skill Capital' of the World. It was launched after inauguration of 14th PBD convention at India's information technology hub Bengaluru, Karnataka. Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa was the Chief Guest of the event. PKVY will provide training and certify Indians who are seeking overseas employment in selected sectors that have high demand in the global labour market in line with international standards. It is said to be implemented by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) through its training partners and in consultation with the Union Ministry of External Affairs and the Union Skill Development Ministry. It also aims at boosting the confidence of the Indian youth so that they don't feel like strangers when they land in a country of their choice for vocation. For this purpose, NSDC will leverage various MoUs signed between 2011 and 2015 with different agencies of Germany, Canada, Australia, Singapore, UK, US, European Union, France, Iran and China. This program is aimed at the welfare, safety and security of overseas Indians especially Indian youth interested in going abroad to work. In the due course of time, PKVY will help convert 'Brain Drain' into 'Brain Gain'. India will become a major supplier of skilled professionals to the entire world in the next decade and PKVY is one of the schemes to realize this vision. Unethical practices by consultancies to cheat youth by giving false promises about abroad opportunities will be reduced substantially. Overall, PKVY will serve as a proper channel for the disoriented Indian youth with aspirations of going abroad and work with certified skill training.

Mr. Michael Ashwin Satyandre Adhin, Vice President of the Republic of Suriname was the special guest at the Youth PBD which was held on 7th January, 2017 in Bengaluru. He addressed the young overseas Indian delegates at the inaugural session of the Youth PBD, along with Minister of External

Affairs Smt Sushma Swaraj and Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports, Shri Vijay Goel. According to the Minister of State for External Affairs, Gen VK Singh (retd), Youth PBD in India offers huge opportunities to be part of its growth story and realise one's dreams through development programmes. He further discussed the Smart Cities Mission, Digital India, Skill India, Start-Up India and Swachh Bharat campaign which are Modi government's flagship programmes. These programmes would help in building a prosperous, skilful, enterprising, clean and futuristic country. Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Mr. Vijay Goel invited the young diaspora to take up social projects as part of its contribution to the motherland and undertake social projects in the country.

As another element of 'Vibrant India', the young diaspora can play an important role in building a modern and prosperous India.



About VIF

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