

PRESS RELEASE

18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas celebrations

by the Embassy of India, Paramaribo

Embassy of India, Paramaribo celebrated the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) at Swami Vivekanand Cultural Centre (SVCC) by organizing an event on 9 January. H.E. Mr. Chandrikapersad Santokhi, President of the Republic of Suriname graced the occasion as Chief Guest and addressed the gathering. Around 200 members of Indian Diaspora, including Hon'ble Deputy Chairman of the National Assembly Dr. Dewanchandrebhose Sharman, Ministers of Defence and Economic Affairs, Entrepreneurship and Technological Innovation, Members of Parliament, Senior officers of the Government of Suriname and members of Indian & Surinamese community attended the event.

After the lighting of the lamp, the video of Prime Minister's address at the 18th PBD held in Bhubaneswar in the morning was played. PM Modi highlighted that "India is not just the mother of democracy, but democracy is an integral part of Indian life". Indians naturally embrace diversity and integrate seamlessly into the societies they join, respecting local rules and traditions. Indians serve their host countries with honesty, contributing to their growth and prosperity, while always keeping India close to their hearts. The 18th PBD from January 8-10 organized at Bhubaneswar, India saw participation from many distinguished Indian community members from all over the world. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi delivered the keynote address while Hon'ble President of India H.E. Smt. Droupadi Murmu would preside over the Valedictory Function and confer the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman awards on 10th January 2025 in India.

In his welcome remarks, the Ambassador Shri Subhash P. Gupta spoke about the PBD programme, the salience of Diaspora links and how the Indian Diaspora across the globe is contributing both to India's development as well as to their countries of residence. He stressed that Suriname is an important Diaspora country and praised the Hindustani community's efforts to keep the Indian culture, tradition and way of life still alive in Suriname. He gave brief overview of the ongoing bilateral cooperation with Suriname and reiterated India's commitment to working closely with the Government of Suriname to further contribute to capacity building and skill development of Suriname's human resources as well as further deepening cultural cooperation.

President Santokhi conveyed his warm greetings to the Diaspora Community and friends in India on the occasion of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. He expressed appreciation for the various efforts and strides made by India in the past few years and the committed support given by India for various developmental programmes. He said that while Suriname shared the vision of a Vikshit Bharat by 2047, the development of Bharat also brings development for all its friends and partners as Bharat's programmes were guided by the principle of Vasudaiva Kutumbhakam.

Cultural performances by students of Dance school Satrangi and by Namita Nritya Vidya Bhawan as well as musical presentation by Kries Ramkhelawan livened up the evening, which was highly appreciated by the audience.

A few photographs of the event are enclosed.

Paramaribo 10 January 2025.





















