

The Regional Overseas Indian Convention in Sydney

The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs of the Government of India has decided to hold the 2013 Regional Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas Convention in Sydney over three days from November 10-12, 2013.

The Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs of the Government of India Mr. Vayalar Ravi and the Premier of New South Wales the Hon. Barry O'Farrell simultaneously announced the event at 1530 hours Australia time on May 30 in New Delhi and Sydney.

The Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas (PBD) has been celebrated in India on January 9th each year since 2003 to mark the contributions of the overseas Indian community in the development of India.

Regional PBDs are organised by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs with the collaboration of the host Government, the Indian Mission, Prominent Overseas Indians and Organisations catering to the needs of the Indian Diaspora.

The objective is to reach out to those members of the community who have been unable to participate in the annual PBD in India and to provide a platform for the Indian community in Australia and the Pacific to contribute to the relationship between countries of the region and India.

Participation in the event is expected from all States and Territories of Australia and from neighbouring countries including Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Manila, Hong Kong, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Fiji and the Pacific Islands.

This convention is not only for the Indian community, but for all persons who are interested in plugging into India's growing relationship with Australia and other Pacific countries. It is expected that more than a thousand individuals will participate in the conference.

The Confederation of Indian Industry will be a partner of the Regional PBD Meeting in Sydney. B2B meetings will be organised by the CII during the conference.

The programme of the event will feature discussions on different aspects of India's relationship with Australia and countries of the region including resources, energy, infrastructure, agriculture, manufacturing,

skills and education, culture, languages, women in business, youth and culture.

Speakers at the Convention

Speakers at the event will include Ministers and prominent dignitaries from Australia and India, prominent members of the Indian community, Australian and Indian business representatives and academicians and media persons.

VIP Speakers

Speakers at the PBD convention include the Hon. Barry O'Farrell, the Premier of NSW and the Hon. Jay Weatherill, the Premier of South Australia. Other prominent speakers include Mr. Anand Satyanand, the former Governor General of New Zealand, Senator the Hon. Lisa Singh, Prof. Amitabh Mattoo, the Director of the Australia India Institute, Vice Chancellors of a number of Australian Universities, Mr. Trevor Rowe, Executive Chairman of the Rothschilds Australia, Mr. S. Ramadorai, Adviser to the Prime Minister of India on Skills, Mr. Phillip Bullock, Chair, Skills Australia. 10 Australian Universities are sponsors of the event along with a number of Indian companies in Australia. Heads of Indian and Australian companies that are a part of the relationship between India and the Pacific countries will also address the Conference.

World Famous Artists

World famous artists including Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma on the Santoor and Hindustani classical vocalist, Ms. Meeta Pandit will be performing at the conference. There will be performances of different schools of classical dance including Bharatnatyam, Kuchipudi, Odissi and Kathakali. The Shiamak Davar Group will perform Bollywood dance during the Conference. There will also be lectures on Yoga and Vedanta.

Representatives of the Indian Community organisations

Heads of Indian Associations from all over Australia will be participating in the event along with representatives of the Indian community in Fiji, New Zealand and neighbouring countries of Australia. A number of prominent Indian academics will also speak at the conference

Registration

Registration of the Conference and booking of accommodation can be done at www.pbdsydney2013.com.au. Please avail of the early bird discount and register for A\$ 325 including GST before September 30. Registration after that date will cost A\$ 425. The registration amount includes conference sessions, dinners, lunches and cultural performances. Thanks to our sponsorships, the cost of registration has been heavily subsidised and is at 1/3rd of the cost per delegate.
