19th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas: website launched

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News

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, with West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari, launched the website of the 19th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) at New Delhi on 11 Nov 2026, opening online registration. The convention will be held in Kolkata on 7–9 January 2027; the Prime Minister will inaugurate it. (The convention itself has not yet begun.)

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Edition	19th PBD Convention
Venue and dates	Kolkata, 7–9 January 2027 (with the West Bengal government)
Theme	"From Roots to Return: Reigniting Diaspora Connect with Bharat"
Website launched by	EAM S. Jaishankar, 11 Nov 2026, New Delhi
Also launched	"Bharat Ko Janiye" quiz for young diaspora members

Background

- Why 9 January: Mahatma Gandhi returned to India from South Africa on 9 January 1915.

- First PBD: 2003, on the advice of the High Level Committee on the Indian Diaspora led by L.M. Singhvi. Since 2015 the convention is held every two years.
- Recent venues: 15th Varanasi (2019), 16th virtual (2021), 17th Indore (2023), 18th Bhubaneswar (2025).
- The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award, the highest honour for overseas Indians, is presented by the President of India.

Tamil Nadu link: Thillaiyadi Valliammai, a young Tamil woman born in Johannesburg, joined Gandhi's satyagraha in South Africa and died in 1914 after imprisonment; Gandhi praised her sacrifice. The Tamil diaspora in Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Singapore, Mauritius and the Gulf is among India's largest.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, with West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari, launched the website of the 19th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) at New Delhi on 11 Nov 2026, opening online registration.

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Edition: 19th PBD Convention; Venue and dates: Kolkata, 7–9 January 2027 (with the West Bengal government); Theme: "From Roots to Return: Reigniting Diaspora Connect with Bharat"; Website launched by: EAM S. Jaishankar, 11 Nov 2026, New Delhi.

What is the background to this news?

Why 9 January: Mahatma Gandhi returned to India from South Africa on 9 January 1915.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas on 9 January commemorates:

A) 1893 – Gandhi leaves for South Africa

B) 1906 – start of satyagraha

C) 1915 – Gandhi returns to India

D) 1920 – Non-Cooperation Movement

Answer: C – Explanation: Gandhi landed in Bombay on 9 January 1915. The day honours the contribution of the Indian diaspora.

2. Where will the 19th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention (7-9 January 2027) be held?

A) Bhubaneswar

B) Indore

C) Varanasi

D) Kolkata

Answer: D – Explanation: The 19th will be in Kolkata with the West Bengal government; the PM will inaugurate it. 18th – Bhubaneswar (2025), 17th – Indore (2023), 15th – Varanasi (2019).

3. Who launched the website of the 19th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in New Delhi on 11 Nov 2026?

A) PM Narendra Modi

B) EAM S. Jaishankar

C) President Droupadi Murmu

D) The Vice-President

Answer: B – Explanation: Jaishankar launched it with West Bengal CM Suvendu Adhikari, opening online registration. The PM will inaugurate the convention in January.

4. In which year was the first Pravasi Bharatiya Divas held?

A) 2003

B) 2000

C) 2006

D) 2015

Answer: A – Explanation: Held since 2003 on the advice of the High Level Committee led by L.M. Singhvi; since 2015 the convention is biennial.

5. Who confers the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award, the highest honour for overseas Indians?

A) The Prime Minister

B) The External Affairs Minister

C) The President of India

D) The Chief Justice of India

Answer: C – Explanation: The President presents the award at the convention's closing session.

Sources: Ministry of External Affairs and ANI (11 Nov 2026); AIR News (4 Oct 2026). © Shanmugam IAS Academy.