

Government of India  
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs  
(Diaspora Services Division)

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**Action Taken Report on suggestions of PBD 2015**

<i>S.N.</i>	<i>Suggestions at PBD 2014</i>	<i>Action to be taken</i>
1.	Indian universities should initiate Know India and Study India Programmes for their diaspora students to strengthen their bonding with the country.	This is a welcome suggestion and this can be taken up with M/o HRD, Government of India for further necessary action.
2.	The Indian diaspora should make attempts to connect with youth volunteer networks like Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan and national Service Scheme to reach out to India youth.	This suggestion can also be considered and MOIA can facilitate the same with the cooperation of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan and NSS of Department of Youth Affairs, Government of India.
3.	A scheme to enable the diaspora whereby they could adopt schools in villages in India may be considered.	This suggestion can be taken up with respective State Governments for proposals. The IDF of MOIA can be entrusted with coordinating this programme.
4.	India has great potential in medical tourism and that those in the Government in synergy with those concerned in the diaspora should do more to make it a success story.	This proposal can be taken up with the Ministry of Tourism and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India for taking further steps in this regard.
5.	Like the Irish and Chinese diaspora who became the chief contributors in the growth and innovation in their domestic economy, the Indian diaspora too could work as pioneers in innovation and help in the growth of India and its people.	At present, the MOIA is engaging Indian diaspora through its annual engagement meets like PBD, Regional PBD and also through various engagement programmes of IDF and OIFC. As Indian diaspora situation is similar to that of the Chinese diaspora, the OIFC study commissioned by MOIA on how Chinese diaspora engages with its homeland would give more inputs for future engagement of India with its diaspora. Further action will be taken on the recommendations of the OIFC study.
6.	PBD should evolve a non-formal connect in an unstructured manner to allow the youth across the world to connect with one another seamlessly.	This suggestion is noted for organizing the future Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. A special/ half day session can be considered in every PBD for engaging the youth diaspora meaningfully.
7.	Discrimination against PIOs vis-à-vis NRIs/ OCIs must be	The issue of discrimination against PIOs, vis-à-vis NRIs/ OCIs is not sustaining one as NRIs are

	addressed appropriately.	<p>Indian citizens whereas PIOs and OCIs are citizens of other countries at present. So, the entitlements of NRIs cannot be granted to PIOs and OCIs due to security and legal issues due to foreign citizenship.</p> <p>However, the parity in entitlements between PIOs and OCIs can be considered w.r.t. requirements of registration, if a PIO stays in India beyond 180 days whereas OCI Cardholder is enjoying exemption from registration with local police authority for any length of stay in India.</p> <p>Further, the requirement of visa after 15 years of issuance of the PIO Card is an area of concern, vis-à-vis, entitlement of life-long visa free entry by OCI Cardholders (F/C).</p> <p>So, these issues need to be referred to Ministry of Home Affairs, who is the authority w.r.t. PIO and OCI Card schemes.</p>
8.	Address the issue of down-linking problems in other countries with respect to Doordarshan international.	This issue can be taken up with Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Doordarshan, Government of India for addressing this technical issue.
9.	Making provision for getting local address printed on OCI cards so that they can avail more business opportunities in India.	OCIs and PIOs are having parity with NRIs in respect of all facilities available in the economic, financial matters except political rights (F/C). Hence, this request does not merit further action at this point of time.
10.	Issue of price rationalization in ticketing in Air India especially on the flights going to Gulf countries.	This issue has already been addressed by Air India and Ministry of Civil Aviation to a great extent. The present policy of increasing the number of seats to Indian and foreign carriers, have resulted in reduction of air fares to Gulf region during the peak season.
11.	Malaysia's Minister invited the Indian institutes of Technology to set up branch campuses in Malaysia and more Indian banks to establish their branches in the country.	Since the IITs are administered by Ministry of Human Resources Development, the matter would be placed before that Ministry for necessary action. Further, MOIA shall address the Ministry of Finance, especially, the Deptt. of Financial Services, Government of India for examining the feasibility of this suggestion at their level with a view to promote economic ties with Government of Malaysia
12.	Various people from other countries wanted business bodies like the FICCI to have a chapter in their respective countries for better business interaction.	Since the suggestion is related to industrial organizations like FICCI, this suggestion would be brought to the notice of M/s. FICCI and CII for a decision at their level.
13.	Participation of NRIs in capital market needs to be	This matter can be addressed to Department of Economic Affairs and Department of Financial

	encouraged.	Services, Government of India for considering the feasibility of this proposal.
14.	Indian Government should negotiate with the countries abroad to facilitate seamless release and exhibition of Indian films there.	This matter is already being handled by the film producers and broadcasters themselves through the sale of overseas rights of release and exhibition of Indian films. However, this matter can be referred to the Film Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for further necessary action.
15.	India to create a Ministry of Alerts so that qualified unemployed work force gets to know about jobs.	This is a rather casual suggestion. There exist enough avenues of information in the job portals and websites of employers. Hence, this suggestion doesn't merit serious consideration.
16.	Question of refugees, economic refugees, especially from Punjab to be addressed	This issue is basically a result of the human trafficking from northern states/UT's, especially Punjab, Delhi, and Chandigarh etc as persons from these areas move to destinations like USA and Canada illegally and get detained in refugee camps. This issue has been flagged by North American Punjabi Association (NAPA). Hence MOIA may address MHA and MEA to take a view on this issue. Further, MOIA shall take up more aggressive publicity campaign to prevent the recurrence of these illegal activities in northern States/UT's of the country.
17.	As diplomats and Foreign Service Officers are promoters of soft power, Indian Governments needs to increase staff strengths in the foreign offices.	Since the Ministry of External Affairs is the controlling authority of diplomats and foreign service officers, this matter would be brought to the notice of MEA for necessary action
18.	There should be a representation of youth in PMGAC.	This suggestion may be considered positively in the reconstitution of PMGAC.
19.	There should be measures to upgrade Indian Missions as they also contribute to enhance soft power of the country.	This matter may be taken up with ICCR and Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.
20.	Indian government could take steps for Skill Development in competencies for job roles.	This issue has been already addressed by Government of India through the Skill Development Mission of the Government.
21.	Government of India may come up with a report to update the figures/ statistics of Indian diaspora in various countries.	The existing system of updating the figures / statistics of Indian diaspora by MOIA in consultation with HOMs/ HOPs is working well. Hence, there is no need for further action on this suggestion.
22.	MOUs to work with other diaspora organizations and cooperate to resolve issues.	At present, the MOIA is working in cooperation with major diaspora organizations for conducting various engagement meets like PBD, RPBD etc. Further, this issue will be discussed in the coming PBD 2015 to elicit more inputs w.r.t. increased cooperation among the diaspora organizations and Ministry

23.	Pay close attention to issues of Indian diaspora in Gulf.	<p>Necessary action to safeguard the interests of Indian diaspora in Gulf is already being taken by MOIA through various MOUs, SSAs and labour agreements. Further, all the issues/ complaints of emergency nature from NRIs/ PIOs are being attended by the PGE Division, FS Division and DS Division in the Ministry.</p> <p>In addition, a separate session on issues of Indian diaspora in Gulf is also being conducted since the last two PBDs.</p>
24.	TV Channel for PIO.	<p>There exists a channel of Doordarshan for International audience. More diaspora related issues/ themes can be considered for their programmes to improve the effectiveness.</p> <p>Hence, we may write to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the Doordarshan to increase coverage on diaspora related issues. Special programmes by Doordarshan can also be made for broadcasting for international audience.</p>
25.	Social networking for Indian diaspora.	<p>MOIA shall open its accounts with social networking websites so as to reach out to the Indian diaspora effectively.</p>
26.	Visa on arrival.	<p>The Visa on Arrival facility is usually extended to the nationals of other countries on reciprocal basis. The OCI / PIO Cardholders are given the facility of Visa on Arrival. Hence, this suggestion may not be taken up with Ministry of Home Affairs.</p>
27.	Indian Government should come out with collaborative research project on World Labour or Indentures.	<p>ICM of MOIA is already undertaking collaborative research projects on labour and migration issues with ILO, UN Women, European Union etc.</p>

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