



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas**

The Consulate General of India, New York celebrated the 15<sup>th</sup> Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) on Saturday, January 12, 2019 at the Consulate premises. Prominent guests from the Indo-American community from North East gathered to mark the occasion.

Mr. Sandeep Chakravorty, Consul General of India in New York, spoke briefly on the importance of Pravasi Bhartiya Divas. **PRAMIT (Pravasi Mitra)**, another initiative by the Consulate for improved services and better grievance management was launched. PRAMIT is an online dashboard where queries by the community could be addressed directly through the Consulate's website. It has ensured quick redressal and better monitoring of queries.

A documentary film on Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was also screened, wherein the efforts of the External Affairs Ministry in rescuing Indians abroad was highlighted.

A plaque, citation and shawl were presented to the distinguished members of Indian Diaspora, in recognition of their leadership and community service. Mr. Deep Gupta, Asian Indian Americans of Central Pennsylvania (AIACP), was recognized for his devotion to his community. He was presented with a plaque and citation by Mr. H.R. Shah. Mr. Niranjana Neil Patel, Federation of Indian Associations, Ohio, was recognized for his dedication to his country of birth and his country of residency which is evident through his contribution in forging the India-U.S. nuclear accord. Mr Patel received the plaque and citation from Mr. Devedasan Nair, Consul (Community Affairs). Mr. Suresh Sharma, founder of MILAN Cultural Association, was recognized for his commitment to the mission of creating visibility and recognition for our Indian community in USA. He was honored by Mr. Harish

Thakkar. Mr. Ramesh Patel was recognized for his unwavering dedication in strengthening Indo-U.S. relationship and working for the community. He was presented a plaque and citation by Mr. Jitendra Mucchal. Ms. Smiti Khanna, Association of Indians in America, was recognized for being the force behind the famous Deepavali Festival that has been held every year for 31 years in New York. Smiti Khanna was the first lady President of New York Chapter of the Association of Indians in America. Mr. Alok Kumar presented Ms. Khanna with a plaque and citation. For relentlessly working towards the enhancement of relationship between India and the US in the fields of commerce, trade and education, Consul General presented Ms. Latha Mangipudi, State Representative - New Hampshire, with a plaque and citation. Ms. Jayashree Voruganti received a plaque and citation handed by Mr. Ankur Vaidya in appreciation of her full time volunteer work through her association with India Association of Greater Boston. Prof. Indrajit Saluja, Editor, The Indian Panorama, was recognized for his contribution in the field of media. Mr. Shatrughna Sinha, Deputy Consul General, presented him with a plaque and citation. Shanti Fund, a charitable organization, was recognized for its role in promoting peace and nonviolence. Mr. Deepak Dave presented a plaque and citation to Mr. Arun Vora on the organization's behalf. For his outstanding role in building community partnerships to advance the cause of education, health and quality of life of others, Mr. Narasimha Shenoy was presented with a plaque and citation by Mr. Minesh Patel. Dr. Naveen Mehta was recognized for his dedication towards humanitarian projects involving rural education in India, providing free medical relief, nature preservation and disaster relief. He was presented with a plaque and citation by Mr. Ashook Ramsaran. Dr. Sudhir Parikh presented the plaque and citation to Jaipur Foot USA for their exceptional humanitarian work, not only in India, but other parts of the world. Mr. Ram Gadhavi was recognized for his dedicated involvement in various community activities for the last 40 years. Dr. Neeta Jain presented him with plaque and citation. Lastly, Mr. Vishnu Mahadeo of Richmond Hill Economic Development Council was recognized for his outstanding and dedicated service for over 30 years to the Indo-Caribbean community of Richmond Hill-Ozone Park. Mr. Mohinder Singh Taneja presented him with a plaque and citation.

The citation of each individual recipient was read by Consul (Community Affairs), and the honorees acknowledged their award through their brief remarks, applauding the initiative by the Consul General. They also encouraged everyone present to break the barriers and wholeheartedly participate in the local social and economic activities while contributing to the betterment of the community in their adopted land.

The event was very well attended and appreciated by one and all.

January 16, 2019

New York.