

PRESS RELEASE

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav to flag off UP Pravasi Divas on January 4, 2016 to cement bonds with UP NRIs & PIOs for UP's economic growth

DUBAI (UAE), December 16, 2015: Come January 4, 2016 and the curtains will go up on the two-day 'UP Pravasi Divas' (UPPD) at Agra. UPPD is aimed at cementing the bonds between Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) with their state of origin. The mega event also seeks to deepen the commercial engagement with UP NRIs and PIOs by way of enhanced investment and trade flows into the state.

UPPD will be inaugurated and chaired by the State Chief Minister, Shri Akhilesh Yadav who will be accompanied by other State Ministers and top government officials. The Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) is the institutional partner for Govt of Uttar Pradesh, India, for this iconic event.

The key highlights of UPPD:

- Sharing of investment plans and policies in Uttar Pradesh on sectors like, manufacturing, infrastructure development, urban transports, smart cities, industrial and social development, electronics, IT & ITeS and tourism etc.
- Appraising steps taken for "Ease of doing business" initiatives by Government of Uttar Pradesh pertaining to industrial development and setting-up of your business.
- Exchange of views of Indian diaspora(s) for developing Uttar Pradesh as a smart State.
- Connecting Uttar Pradesh with Innovative and Knowledge network of Indian Diaspora.
- Interface with senior officials from Government of Uttar Pradesh for developing fast-track mechanism for absorbing and resolving U.P. Diaspora(s) issues related to business and other matters.
- Heritage and Cultural trips

To promote this event, a team from Government of Uttar Pradesh and FICCI, organized a Roadshow in Dubai in partnership with IBPC. During this event, Principal Secretary NRI, Govt of Uttar Pradesh, Mr. Sanjiv Saran, shared that " UP State Government would like the UPPD to develop as the largest platform for exchange of knowledge and information amongst and with UPNRIs and PIOs. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has taken a number of initiatives towards engaging with the UP diaspora and it has already set up a full-fledged NRI Department which looks into the issues of the NRIs/ PIOs striving towards building a meaningful relationship with the State. A new Department of NRI Affairs has been set up and all efforts are being made to involve the NRIs and PIOs in the mainstream of the development in the State. A new website www.upnri.com has been launched to keep the diaspora from U.P. abreast of the latest developments in the state", he said.

An exhibition is also being organized along with this event at the same location to showcase the economic strengths of the State and its achievements. The major achievements and economic developments to be highlighted include modern infrastructure such as Lucknow-Agra Expressway, Lucknow Metro, Metros in NOIDA and Greater NOIDA, Trans-Ganga City at Kanpur, Saraswati Knowledge City in Allahabad, Solar Parks in Jalaun and other places, IT City in Lucknow, IT SEZs in the state, the integrated industrial cities of NOIDA and Greater Noida and the upcoming hubs of electronic manufacturing.

Since a large number of start-ups seek venture capital, UPPD would provide an excellent opportunity for the young entrepreneur seeking venture capital since a number of prominent venture capitalists, both from the India and abroad will also be participating in the event. Some have already confirmed their participation. For instance, an entrepreneur from U.P. settled in U.K. can meet an angel investor from the Silicon Valley, who hails from U.P. to set up a venture in the State or anywhere in the world. This would be the strength of the platform that the UPPD will provide.

UPPD would also be an excellent opportunity to showcase the state's strengths in the education and healthcare sectors. Leading hospitals including Medanta (Lucknow and NOIDA), Fortis (NOIDA, Greater Noida and Lucknow) and other international groups are setting up state-of-the-art medical facilities in the state beside the Cancer Hospital being set up by the State Government in Lucknow. Leading educational groups including Amity, Sharda and Jaipuria are also operating in the state and plan to open up new facilities. A Knowledge University is coming up at Trans-Ganga City in Unnao.

An entire session would be devoted to the Girmitiyas, their history, achievements and the present issues. devoted to the Indian diaspora settled in the pacific rim countries, namely, Surinam, Fiji, Trinidad and Tobago, Mauritius who migrated during the period 1833 to 1920 as indentured labour, popularly known as the Girmits. Most of them are PIOs and have risen to occupy the highest positions in politics and economy in those countries. Some of them would be conferred the UP Ratna Award at the UPPD. This session would recognize the pains of emigration as well as the achievements of the Girmitiyas.

The State Government runs a program "Discover your roots" to enable the PIOs connect with places of origin of their fore-fathers and their relatives who may be still living in U.P. The State Government is roping in University scholars from History and Anthropology Departments of various Universities in U.P. to help trace and discover roots of people who left the country a long time back. The participants can take full advantage of this program. This session will be unique to the UPPD as this segment does not get adequate focus during the PBDs.

As the State is aggressively promoting electronic manufacturing, IT and renewable energy including solar farms and solar parks, making of films in the state, the UPPD will be an excellent platform to showcase our progress and the potential. This will attract and encourage potential investors and also enhance the image of U.P. as a state, which is now at the forefront of cutting edge technology.

A number of eminent personalities and industry captains from these sectors have been invited to speak at the sessions in UPPD 2016.

FICCI MEDIA DIVISION