

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Launch of the Regional Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas (PBD) 2013 in Sydney**

The Australia India Business Council (AIBC) is closely involved with and taking a leading role in the official launch of the Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (Overseas Indian Residents Conference) on 19 July 2013 at the Hilton Sydney.

This major conference will be held on in Sydney over three days 10 -12 November 2013 and is expected to attract over 1,000 delegates from the Asia Pacific Region.

Ms Sheba Nandkeolyar, President of AIBC NSW welcomed the media and spoke about the growing Indian Diaspora in the Asia Pacific region and the need to remain connected with India.

Mr. Neville Roach speaking on this occasion noted that the objective of the event was 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 Region to contribute to the strong and growing relationship between countries of this region and India.

Mr Biren Nanda, the Indian High Commissioner said Participation in the event was 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.

Mr. Rajiv Mehrishi, Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (India) shared a lot of Govt. of India initiatives introduced recently for overseas Indians.

He also stated that this convention was not only for the Indian community, but for everyone who was interested in India's growing relationship with Australia and other Pacific countries.

The High Commissioner shared that 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, languages, youth, women in business and culture among others.



Mr. Arun Kumar Goel, Consul General of India in Sydney stated that the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas website will be up by August where program and registration details can be accessed.

Mr Dipen Rughani, AIBC National Chair was pleased that AIBC was associated in actively promoting the Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas to be held in Sydney, Australia.

The Australia India Business Council Ltd (AIBC) is a national membership organisation with active branches in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth and Canberra. Founded in 1986, it is the only national body representing bi-lateral trade and investment relations between Australia and India.

It maintains close relationships with federal and state government agencies, the diplomatic corps and industry bodies, and showcases opportunities to the Australian business community through an active program of events nationally.

AIBC conducts a wide range of activities in Australia and India which include policy and business planning initiatives with major stakeholders including the Government of India, Government of Australia/State Governments, major government trade and investment bodies.