**Embassy of India**

**Doha**

**Press Release**

**Indian Community Celebrates Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2019**

 The Embassy of India, Doha, in association with the Indian Cultural Centre(ICC), organized Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2019 on 9th January 2019 at the Indian Cultural Centre premises. A promotional video on Pravasi Bharatiya Divas(PBD) and another video on participation of Indian Diaspora during the last PBD were screened. The meeting was attended by over 300 members from the Indian community, including previous years PBD delegates from Qatar, Community leaders and members of various affiliated organisations.

 Pravasi Bharatiya Divas ( Non-Resident Indians’ Day) is a day celebrated each year on 9 January by India to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community towards the development of India. The day commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India on 9 January 1915.

 The event started with the lighting of the lamp by Ambassador P. Kumaran, along with ICC Acting President and Presidents of other apex Indian community bodies under the aegis of the Embassy of India. Acting ICC President A. P. Manikantan welcomed the gathering. Mr. P Kumaran, Ambassador of India, who was the Chief Guest at the event, reiterated the importance and historical relevance of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. He encouraged the Indian community in Qatar to take active part in PBD 2019 planned from 21-23 of January 2019 at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India.

 During the event, a video clipping of Mahatma Gandhi’s favourite song “Vaishnav Jan Te” rendered by a Qatar-based singer Mr. Ahmed Abdulrahim was also shown. Ambassador P Kumaran presented the singer with a plaque of appreciation. The rendition of the bhajan is a part of ongoing celebrations to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

 During the event, the winners of the 1st round of Bharat ko Janiye Quiz from Qatar were felicitated with Medals by the Ambassador. Mr.Rohit Birla won the Gold Medal, Miss Marilyn Rego (Class 10 student of DPS) won the Silver Medal and Ms. Princy Joseph Solomon the Bronze Medal. This Quiz Contest was recently held online by the Ministry of External Affairs of India. The aim of the Quiz Contest was to motivate overseas Indian youth to develop interest in knowing and understanding India.

 During the PBD celebrations, a promotional video of “India-Qatar Year of Culture 2019” was also launched. This will be uploaded to the Embassy’s social media handles in the next few days.

 ICC General Secretary Mr. Juttas Paul conducted the program and ICC Head of Finance Mr. Girish Jain proposed the vote of thanks.

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