

India seeks NRI participation in 'Viksit Bharat'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Bhubaneswar, January 8

THE 18TH PRAVASI Bharatiya Divas (PBD) convention kicked off here on Wednesday, with external affairs minister S Jaishankar calling upon NRIs and Persons of Indian Origin to actively participate in the quest for a 'viksit Bharat' (developed India).

The convention began in Bhubaneswar with the inauguration of Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) by Jaishankar, union youth affairs and sports minister Mansukh Mandaviya and chief minister Mohan Charan Majhi.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will take part in the formal

inaugural session on Thursday, while President Droupadi Murmu will preside over the valedictory session on Friday.

Addressing the young diaspora, Jaishankar explained the reason behind holding a conclave for youths as part of the PBD celebration, being held in Odisha for the first time.

"The thinking behind is one of recognising the special contribution that young minds make, at home and abroad. And indeed, in connecting them more effectively for mutual good," he said.

Jaishankar noted that this is a time when so many key developments in the world are being shaped by this younger generation— AI, electronic vehicles,



External affairs minister S Jaishankar (right) with Malaysian minister of Digital Gobind Singh Deo during the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, in Bhubaneswar on Wednesday

PTI

startups, drones and sports.

Acknowledging young diaspora's role in enhancing perception of India globally, the country has started its journey towards 'viksit Bharat', Jaishankar said adding that this is an effort for the future generation.

"In this period, they (youths) will come to the front ranks and lead the nation. A large part of our efforts is to give the right motivation to the younger generation to accelerate their efforts. While development itself is a very complex task, it becomes much easier when we are confident that nothing is beyond us," he said.

The external affairs minister quoted badminton player PV Sindhu on why Prime Minister

Modi is a youth icon.

"She summed it up as his attitude which moved our nation from 'chalta hai' (it's ok) to 'badal sakta hai' (it can change) to 'hoga kaise nahin (why can't it happen)?" he said.

Jaishankar highlighted various campaigns and programmes to develop India undertaken since 2014 under the Modi government.

"Let me take the opportunity to urge you (young diaspora) on behalf of Prime Minister Modi to promote India as a tourism destination. If young Indian PIOs bring their equally young friends from abroad to explore our uniquely rich and diverse heritage and culture, this will surely become a lifelong habit," he said.