



PRESS RELEASE

Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award

At the 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas celebrations held in Bangalore from 7-9 January 2017, the Hon'ble President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, awarded the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award-2017 to Mr. Nalinkumar Sumanlal Kothari from Djibouti for community service. Mr. Nalin Kothari is a prominent Person of Indian Origin (PIO) and Honorary Consul of India in Djibouti.

Mr. Kothari was instrumental in ensuring the evacuation of more than 5000 Indians and 40 other nationalities from war torn Yemen under 'Operation Rahat' in 2015. He is also dynamically engaged in philanthropic activities since 1969. The Indian Mercantile Charitable Trust in Djibouti under his leadership manages the Indian National School in Djibouti where education up to Class 5 is provided to students of all communities. He has also been providing medical and educational assistance to a number of Djiboutians who cannot afford such services.

The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (PBSA) is the highest honour conferred on overseas Indians. PBSA is conferred by the President of India as a part of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Conventions organized annually since 2003 on a Non-Resident Indian, Person of Indian Origin or an organization or institution established and run by the Non-Resident Indians or Persons of Indian Origin, who has made significant contribution in any one of the following fields:

- Better understanding abroad of India;
- Support to India's causes and concerns in a tangible way;
- Building closer links between India, the overseas Indian community and their country of residence;
- Social and humanitarian causes in India or abroad;
- Welfare of the local Indian community;
- Philanthropic and charitable work;
- Eminence in one's field or outstanding work, which has enhanced India's prestige in the country of residence; or
- Eminence in skills which has enhanced India's prestige in that country (for non-professional workers).

An 11-member Jury-cum-Awards Committee, with Hon'ble Vice-President of India as Chairman and Hon'ble External Affairs Minister as Vice-Chairman and nine other distinguished members from various walks of life, considered all the nominations received for the PBSA and unanimously recommended thirty nominees. A list of 123 nominations that were found eligible as per the guidelines and another list of 55 nominations that were received late were presented for consideration of the Committee. The nominations were initially examined by a Screening Committee comprising of Officers from the Ministry of External Affairs. The Jury members considered all eligible nominations and the relevant information placed before the Committee. After detailed discussions, thirty nominees were unanimously recommended by the Jury-cum-Awards Committee for Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards, 2017 by the Committee.

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