

# Pravasi Bharatiya Bhavan





ore than three decades ago, the Government of India and the then External Affairs Minister had accepted in principle the idea of “Pravasi Bharatiya Bhavan”, put forth by two Members of Parliament (one of whom was the Chairman). It was, however, not followed up. The Committee feels that it is an idea whose time has come.

- 35.2. The present proposal to establish a “Pravasi Bharatiya Bhavan” has been conceptualised by the Committee to provide a suitable place to commemorate the trials and tribulations, as well as the subsequent evolution and achievements of the diverse Indian Diaspora. It would symbolise our recognition that the common aspiration of all members of the Diaspora is to maintain their cultural identity and civilisational ethos; and also their fervent desire to pass on this rich legacy to their coming generations. The Bhavan would house an institution, which would encourage the spirit of camaraderie among all the children of Mother India. The Bhavan would become the focal point for interactions between India and the Diaspora and would also in course of time, become the hub of various activities aimed at creating pride in the achievements of India and the Diaspora.
- 35.3. The proposed Bhavan would have a permanent exhibition illustrating the history of the Diaspora in various parts of the world. It would house a well-stocked library with a wide-ranging collection of diasporic books and audio-visual materials. Orientation programmes about India would be organised in it for young members of the Diaspora who come to India for voluntary work, or to attend academic courses. Similar programmes may be organised for Indian citizens visiting Diaspora countries. The Bhavan would also be the ideal place to locate any future organisation that would be created by the Government of India to deal with matters relating to the Indian Diaspora.
- 35.4. The Bhavan would be located at a suitable and prestigious place in Central/South Delhi. It would have convenient access to institutions like the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, the India International Centre, the India Habitat Centre and the Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Library and Teen Murti House.

- 35.5. In order to provide a sense of participation to the members of the Diaspora, the architectural designs for the Bhavan would be selected through a competition open to architects from India as well as those belonging to the Indian Diaspora. The jury for selection of the Bhavan's architect would consist of eminent architects chaired by the Minister for Urban Development. Administration and membership of the Bhavan should be broadly on the pattern of the India International Centre or be regulated by a Deed of Declaration by the Government of India.
- 35.6. The Pravasi Bharatiya Bhavan is not meant to be merely a building, but a place, which would symbolise the spirit and soul of India and the Indian Diaspora. Individual parts of this structure would commemorate landmark events, ideas and individuals in the glorious history of India and the Diaspora. The Committee has no doubt that a proposal of this kind would attract willing financial and other contributions of NRIs and PIOs from all over the world.

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