

# Glimpses of Indian Diaspora

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## ABSTRACT:

The Indian diaspora generally refers to people of Indian Origin but lives outside the nation, i.e. India. But they relate to the nation maintaining good cultural heritage as they belonged to such a great historical tradition and culture. They are all scattered across the globe in various countries and states but continue their contribution to various fields in their native nation i.e. India and establish vibrant communities with their contributions. Now, let's have a brief outlook about various schemes established by the Government of India (GOI) and measures taking in support of Diaspora and its valuable contribution to the nation development. Diaspora generally plays a significant role in preserving cultural identity, tradition it acts like a bridge between trading, cultural exchange between their host countries and their native countries. To sum up, Diaspora, though creates a diverge concept, helps a lot, and plays a vital role in designing the nation in a progressive manner.

The term “diaspora” originates from the Greek term, “diaspeirein” which translates as “Dispersion” means Distribution/spreading.

In India, diaspora is commonly understood to include Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) and Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs) of which PIO & OCI card holders were merged under One Category – O.C.I. in the year 2015.

Indian diaspora: This includes a broad term of people who have migrated from territories that are now part of the Republic of India. In addition, it refers to the issues about their survival and supporting issues. The diaspora is estimated to be above 20 million people approx. made up of NRIs and PIOs (Persons of Indian Origins) who have acquired citizenship of some other country.

India has the world's second largest diaspora. Diasporas are symbols of a nation's pride and represent their country internationally. The diaspora's ability is to spread Indian soft power, national interests and contribute economically to India's development is now well-recognized.

## Diaspora's significance:

Recently, In Houston, our Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi continued his extra-ordinary deal in reaching out to the Indian Diaspora.

## Freedom struggle:

Mahatma Gandhiji's struggles to end the systematic prejudice against Indians in South Africa inspired legends about the diaspora that have endured fraction at home, it started to have an impact on many Indian

Communities abroad

### **Technological Development:**

As we have many IT hubs like Bangaluru, Gurugram and Hyderabad... all these are the sources for numerous Indian startups.

### **Cultural Extensions:**

There are several Sikhs are one of the largest emigrants from India to the countries like U.K., Canada, and many other countries. Though there are several other religious people migrate, these are ear mark ones. Often, a group of people / a race/ set of people move from place to place due to several reasons like historical events i.e. colonization, conflicts or economic needs. Diasporas, at times, helps to develop trade, diplomacy and cultural exchange from their host countries and their places of origin.

### **Technological Graduates:**

At present, several engineering and management graduates working in higher positions primarily in western nations like U.S., Europe etc....

### **Comparison between Indian diaspora and other countries diaspora:**

The Indian diaspora is one of the largest in the world, with significant population in the world, with significant population in countries like the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada and the Gulf countries. It is known for its diversity, entrepreneurial spirit, and contributions to various fields, including technology, medicine and business. Other Countries' diasporas vary in size, composition and impact depending on historical, economic, and social factors. Each diaspora brings unique cultural, economic, and political influences on their host countries and maintains connections with their native places of their own countries, contributing their level best to global diversity.

### **Roles and Responsibilities of Indian Diaspora by the Government of India:**

- According to Jawaharlal Nehru's Indian Foreign Policy in 1950s, it was designed as a model of non-intervention, because Indians, living abroad are offend host nations as it is the sole responsibility for their welfare & security. But, the diaspora, could not expect India to defend on their rights.
- On the other hand, Rajiv Gandhi, was the first Prime Minister to change the **diasporic policy** in the 1980s by requesting the Indian living abroad, regardless of their nationality, to participate in nation-building initiatives, like the Overseas Chinese Communities which was already setup in foreign nations.
- A Series of beneficial policies were developed after 2000 at the time of A.B. Vajpayee administration which included **PIO Card (Person of Indian Origin Card)**, **Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas**, **Pravasi Bhartiya Samman Award**, Overseas Citizen of India Card, NRI Funds and Voting rights for Indian Nationals living abroad.

### **Indian Diaspora – Major Issues:**

#### **Culture:**

The Indian Diaspora is very particular in respect of its Cultural heritage. The emigrants are aware of their ancient culture and civilization in the world, as they belong to such rich culture.

**Dual Citizenship:**

Majority of the Indians are abroad even though they are very much devoted to their Indian citizenship and home country citizenship.

**Threat to their Security:**

The security of foreign workers in the Middle East is now under new threat.

For example: IS group demoralizing Indian citizens/workers.

**Indian Diaspora - Measures taken by Government of India:**

- Since 2003, the Govt. of India has celebrated **Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas** to recognize the contribution of Indian Diaspora to the advancement of India.
- In 2004, the Govt. of India established an individual **Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs** 2004. The Indian diaspora receives several comprehensive services from this wing.
- In 2005, The **Overseas Citizenship of India Scheme (OCIS)** was introduced by amending the Citizenship Act 1955.
- From the year 2006, The Govt. Of India has introduced **Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojana** for the welfare of the Indian Citizen living abroad.
- The Govt. of India grants **various types of Visas** like lifetime, multiple and multi-entry Visas with some rights for Diasporic people.
- The Govt. of India also established a three-week Orientation Programme titled **“Know India Program” (K.I.P.)** for youth from the diaspora to develop awareness on great Indian culture and the advancements the nation achieved in various fields. K.I.P. offers an opportunity to NRI students & Youth to visit India to get aware of those culture-centric importance and developmental aspects.

**The Swarna Pravas Yojana- New Plan Scheme:**

Through this scheme, Indian workers' employability development in abroad by supplying of labor in India, by giving them the necessary training in various fields relatively to create employability for skilled labor in India.

The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs is running a scheme known as **“Tracing the roots”** to facilitate PIOs in tracing their roots in India.

Besides all these, the Government of India has made **Social Security agreements** with numerous foreign nations to safeguard the Indian Community existing in those nations.

**Reservation and weightage for diaspora in Education Sector and other sectors:**

The Government offer scholarships and financial aid to the overseas Indian students through schemes like the **Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC) and Study in India Programme**.

Various universities and institutions are providing Reservations in allotment of seats or NRI quota is also following for Indian origin students living abroad and wish to study in Indian Universities or institutions. Some special eligibility conditions may also apply for such candidates to impress and respect their nation's policy how they are bonded to their native people.

Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) are also eligible to invest their funds in various Indian Stock markets under **Portfolio Investment Scheme (PIS) of RBI guidelines**.

Thus, the Government of India is devoted to the NRIs or PIOs or OCIs to extend their support in protecting the great Indian tradition and culture and serving them to those who are directly or indirectly taking a part in developing the nation technologically, financially, economically and with high respect of moralities.

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