

NRIs should look to invest in UP, train workforce: *Balwant Singh Ramoowalia, Coordinator, UP Pravasi Diwas*

New portal for NRIs in offing: Principal Secretary, NRI Dept

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Speaking on the UP Government's initiative to engage the Indian Diaspora for development, Mr **Balwant Singh Ramoowalia, Minister, Government of Uttar Pradesh**, said that there are over 25 million Indians staying in foreign land and many of them hold high posts in government and industries. It is important to engage the NRIs to bring in investments, create business opportunities and guide the workforce of India. This would pave the path towards a developed future. He was addressing the gathering at the U.P. Pravasi Diwas conference which is being organised in Agra in partnership with FICCI.

Mr Ramoowalia also reinforced the imperative for the Government to draft attractive policies for doing business in Uttar Pradesh. "Enhancing connectivity would prove beneficial for both the state and the Indian Diaspora", he said.

Speaking on the initiatives of Uttar Pradesh Government, **Mr Sanjiv Sharan, Principal Secretary, NRI Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh**, talked about the newly formed NRI department that would focus on solving grievances of NRIs and helping investors in UP. He said that the MOUs signed during the Uttar Pradesh Pravasi Diwas would facilitate creation of more business opportunities and investments in the state. "A coffee table book is also being conceptualised for promoting the policies and familiarising NRIs with progresses and opportunities in the state" **he added**.

Shri Saran informed that department would launch a new portal for NRIs, to facilitate and resolve their issues.

Speaking on how the state can connect to the Indian Diaspora, **Mr Alok Ranjan, Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh**, said that it was very important to promote the developments happening in the state. The state government needs to organise various business forums to showcase what Uttar Pradesh has got to offer to the world.

Dr A Didar Singh, Secretary General, FICCI and the moderator for this session brought out the importance of connecting the Indian Diaspora both emotionally and through technology. Technology like creating forums for solving issues related to business establishments and showcasing the ease of doing business in the state would not only encourage investment opportunities but also connect the NRIs back to their roots.

Congratulating the Uttar Pradesh government for the great initiative of engaging NRIs with their roots, **Ms Charu Mathur, CEO, Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre** at Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, focused on the joint responsibility of both state and the Centre to give a pleasant experience to the NRIs during their business ventures in India.

Mr Subhash Razdan, Member, International Partnership Committee, Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce and International Consular Corp, Georgia, pointed out the improvements required in to promote tourism. The most important among them is physical infrastructure. "Mathura and Vrindavan are the most visited heritage sites after the Taj Mahal so tourist friendly infrastructure

needs to be improved to attract to foreign tourists”, Mr Razdan said. He suggested ideas like developing nature walks at Vrindavan and Mathura, implementing proper garbage management plan, Yamuna cleaning initiative, protecting the Kumbh Mela site and improving water treatment plants would encourage cultural tourism.

Speaking on the need to connect with the Indian Diaspora, Dr Nadeem Akhtar Tarin, Chairman, Inshaat Terai Construction Company and President, Nadeem Tarin Educational Society emphasised on the fact that India’s strength lies in its human resources. It is very important to transform this very potential human resource into wealth and value. And in order to do that the state government should connect with the Indian Diaspora who can impart knowledge and skill to train the potential work force of India.

Carrying forward the discussion on how to convert human resource into wealth, Dr Purushotam Lal, Chairman, Metro Group of Hospitals and Director (Interventional Cardiology), Metro Hospitals and Healthcare spoke on the need of an emotional involvement. This emotional involvement would encourage the Indian diaspora to connect back to their roots and encourage growth and development by investing in the state.