

**High Commission of India**  
**Kuala Lumpur**

**Press Release - Pravasi Bharatiya Express**

Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India in partnership with M/s Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) is organizing the Pravasi Bharatiya Express, which is a specially conducted train tour under the Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yoiana (PTDY) scheme of Ministry of External Affairs.

2. The Pravasi Bharatiya Express is a special state-of-the-art Tourist Train exclusively designed for the Indian Diaspora (PIOs only) that will travel to multiple destinations of prominent touristic interest and religious importance all over India for a period of 3 weeks starting on 9 January 2025 starting from the Safdarjung Railway Station in New Delhi. The date, 9 January has been chosen to commemorate the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India on this date in the year 1915.

3. The Pravasi Bharatiya Express will travel to Ayodhya, Patna, Gaya, Varanasi, Mahabalipuram, Rameshwaram, Madurai, Kochi, Goa, Ekta Nagar (Kevadia), Ajmer, Pushkar and Agra. The train would have a maximum capacity for 156 passengers. This purpose of this tour is to connect the Indian Diaspora to their roots and promote inbound tourism to India and thus promote one of the three T's (Trade, Tourism and Technology) advocated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi.

4. The Ministry will bear all expenses for the aforesaid conducted train tour besides also bearing 90% of the return airfares for the eligible PIOs from their countries of origin to India. PIOs will need to bear only 10% of their return airfares to avail of this scheme.

5. Preference will be given to PIOs from low-income backgrounds who would otherwise be unable to afford a visit to India on their own.

6. Interested participants (in the age group of 45-65 yrs) may kindly share the documents as listed below by email to Community affairs wing (ca.kl@mea.gov.in) by latest by 08 December 2024.

- i) CV along with Proof of Salary (Monthly salary less than RM 3000/- **OR** Self-declaration of the low income / unemployment status attested by Commissioner of Oaths in Malaysia)
- ii) Copy of Passport
- iii) Copy of OCI Card (Non-OCI Card holders should apply for the relevant visa to travel to India. Processing of visa will be facilitated by High Commission of India, Kuala Lumpur for the selected participants)

Kuala Lumpur  
12 November 2024

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