

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-3277
ANSWERED ON- 21/08/2025

INDIAN DIASPORA IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

3277. SHRI SATNAM SINGH SANDHU

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the estimated size of the Indian diaspora globally, country-wise;
- (b) the number of Indian-origin elected representatives in foreign governments;
- (c) the steps taken to engage the diaspora in nation building, technology transfer or investment; and
- (d) whether any new Indian Community Welfare Funds or diaspora outreach platforms have been created?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

- (a) The estimated size of the Indian diaspora globally, country-wise, is enclosed at Annexure I.
- (b) As per available records, the total number of Indian origin elected representatives in foreign governments is enclosed at Annexure II.
- (c) The Government has taken several initiatives to engage the Indian diaspora and encourage them to contribute to nation building, technology transfer, investment, and the holistic development of their motherland. Such initiatives constitute important component of the Diaspora Engagement policy framework of the Government of India, which is based on 4 Cs: Care for our communities, Connect with global networks, Celebrate our shared heritage, and encourage Contributions that drive positive change. Ministry has been implementing diverse schemes to engage with the Indian diaspora, and to leverage its expertise, resources and goodwill. These initiatives have strengthened India's bond with its diaspora, and encouraged the diaspora members to actively partner India's development in its march towards "Viksit Bharat".

The Government of India organizes the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) biennially and invites Indian diaspora community members to an Indian state, to attend sessions on various themes related to contemporary India that are of interest to them besides recognizing their contributions to the development of India. PBD is organized jointly with a State Government of India, which also allows the latter to showcase the investment opportunities in the state, besides promoting tourism. The recently held 18th PBD in January 2025 was organized jointly with the State Government of Odisha on the theme "Diaspora's contribution to a Viksit Bharat". The Convention witnessed participation of Indian Diaspora communities from all across the globe including those who trace their origins from Odisha. They participated in several activities that sought to promote India's national interests and facilitate investment and cultural exchanges between India and its large diaspora community from across the globe.

During the PBD Conventions, eminent Indian diaspora members are conferred with the prestigious 'Pravasi Bhartiya Samman Awards' (PBSA). This is the highest honour conferred by the Government of India to recognize the achievements of the Indian diaspora in diverse sectors. Such awardees are encouraged to further contribute to India's development initiatives and foster mutual economic and social partnerships.

The Know India Programme (KIP) of this Ministry seeks to connect the PIO (People of Indian Origin) youth with their ethnic roots and facilitate their understanding of contemporary India, through a three week orientation course. Such members of the youth Indian diaspora are also exposed to the economic prowess of India and are encouraged to participate in the same in their professional capacities.

Government of India also encourages Indian diaspora to invest in India by facilitating ease of doing business in India, promoting flexibilities in FDIs and by facilitating ease of travel through extension of the Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) Card. Holders of the OCI Card can avail of the benefits of lifelong visas, ownership rights to properties in India and are thus motivated to invest in India.

Besides these programmes, the Indian Missions/Posts abroad also actively remain engaged with the Indian diaspora abroad to celebrate and promote India's rich cultural heritage under the Promotion of Cultural Ties with Diaspora (PCTD) scheme of the Ministry, while fostering economic ties through trade and investment opportunities by organising several events that showcase India's developmental journey. The Indian diaspora members abroad are urged to join such efforts as partners and contribute to India's march towards development.

The active engagement of the Government of India with the Indian diaspora has resulted in the latter playing an important role in the growth and development of India besides promoting India's interests and further strengthening ties between India and the adopted countries of the Indian diaspora. People of Indian origin have emerged to occupy prominent positions in politics, public administration, and international organisations in countries across the world. This has helped promote India's interests and its position on global platforms, thus benefiting both India and the respective countries of such leaders from the Indian diaspora. All this have a cumulative impact on bilateral trade and investment flows into India, which has grown steadily over the years. This Ministry thus strives to continue the momentum of India's engagement with its large and diverse diaspora across the globe and strengthen its relationship with its diaspora, that in turn, fosters greater participation of the latter in India's economic development and march towards "*Viksit Bharat*."

(d) NIL.

**Ministry of External Affairs
(Diaspora Engagement Division)**

**Data on Indian Diaspora Abroad
(as of January 2025)**

S.No.	Country/ Territory	PIOs	NRI s	Total Overseas Indians
1	Afghanistan	158	0	158
2	Albania	7	450	457
3	Algeria	27	4024	4051
4	Andorra	200	50	250
5	Angola	59	71	130
6	Antigua & Barbuda	200	300	500
7	Argentina	1800	800	2600
8	Armenia	19	5430	5449
9	Aruba	400	600	1000
10	Australia	626000	350000	976000
11	Austria	18500	14400	32900
12	Azerbaijan	83	672	755
13	Bahamas	20	280	300
14	Bahrain	4506	342350	346856
15	Bangladesh	10	7000	7010
16	Barbados	2500	600	3100
17	Belarus	150	1266	1416
18	Belgium	13204	23343	36547
19	Belize	1300	200	1500
20	Benin	4	996	1000
21	Bhutan	0	60000	60,000
22	Bolivia	15	47	62
23	Bonaire & Smaller Islands	12	54	66
24	Bosnia and Herzegovina	7	20	27
25	Botswana	3000	9500	12500
26	Brazil	863	2460	3323
27	British Virgin Islands	20	80	100
28	Brunei Darussalam	240	14500	14740
29	Bulgaria	1077	949	2026
30	Burkina Faso	350	150	500
31	Burundi	35	700	735
32	Cambodia	100	4400	4500

33	Cameroon	0	1500	1500
34	Canada	1859680	1751610	3611290
35	Cape Verde	1	39	40
36	Cayman Islands	100	900	1000
37	Central African Republic	0	70	70
38	Chad	0	250	250
39	Chile	2100	2000	4100
40	China	59787	43683	103470
41	Colombia	252	758	1010
42	Commonwealth of Dominica	500	40	540
43	Comoros	200	20	220
44	Congo (Democratic Republic)	5000	30000	35000
45	Republic of Congo	0	875	875
46	Cook Islands	5	0	5
47	Costa Rica	39	1011	1050
48	Cote D Ivory	44	6532	6576
49	Croatia	82	17139	17221
50	Cuba	0	0	0
51	Curacao	800	700	1500
52	Cyprus	398	11119	11517
53	Czech Republic	600	10124	10724
54	Denmark	3499	18958	22457
55	Djibouti	8	1000	1008
56	Dominica Republic	2	75	77
57	Ecuador	82	269	351
58	Egypt	366	5134	5500
59	El Salvador	1	20	21
60	Equatorial Guinea	0	400	400
61	Eritrea	0	140	140
62	Estonia	40	1928	1968
63	Eswatini	0	3184	3184
64	Ethiopia	105	5900	6,005
65	Fiji	313818	2290	316108
66	Finland	15989	13068	29057
67	France	90000	29000	119000
68	France (Reunion Island)	300000	159	300159
69	France (Guadeloupe)	57000	180	57180
70	France (Martinique)	8000	90	8090
71	France (St.	1800	150	1950

	Martin)			
72	Gabon	10	800	810
73	Gambia	20	2100	2120
74	Georgia	5	250	255
75	Germany	176500	273890	450390
76	Ghana	321	15000	15321
77	Greece	158	11333	11491
78	Grenada	4511	189	4700
79	Guatemala	16	126	142
80	Guinea (Republic of)	51	1390	1441
81	Guinea-Bissau	0	300	300
82	Guyana	320000	2700	322700
83	Haiti	0	36	36
84	Holy See	30	15	45
85	Honduras	277	8457	8734
86	Hungary	2200	6800	9000
87	Iceland	237	509	746
88	Indonesia	120000	14817	134817
89	Iran	445	10320	10765
90	Iraq	0	17100	17100
91	Ireland	37,812	45,000	82,812
92	Israel	85,000	38,000	123,000
93	Italy	Data not available	170880	170880
94	Jamaica	70000	5000	75000
95	Japan	1597	51345	52942
96	Jordan	153	16897	17050
97	Kazakhstan	423	1095	1518
98	Kenya	60,000	20,000	80,000
99	Kirbati	50	2	52
100	Korea (DPR)	1	15	16
101	Korea (ROK)	444	16816	17260
102	Kuwait	2,356	10,07,961	10,10,317
103	Kyrgyzstan	61	200	261
104	Laos	119	600	719
105	Latvia	Data not available	4766	4766
106	Lebanon	41	2000	2041
107	Lesotho (Kingdom of)	1500	1500	3000
108	Liberia	2	3000	3002
109	Libya	0	3000	3000
110	Liechtenstein	0	35	35
111	Lithuaniaia	Data not available	7227	7227
112	Luxembourg	813	4508	5321
113	Madagascar	15000	2500	17500
114	Malawi	6000	9000	15000
115	Malaysia	2750000	185000	2935000

116	Maldives	140	30000	30140
117	Mali	13	600	613
118	Malta	250	18000	18250
119	Marshall Island	2	7	9
120	Mauritania	0	150	150
121	Mauritius	871140	26357	897497
122	Micronesia	0	35	35
123	Mexico	1500	6500	8000
124	Moldova	9	950	959
125	Monaco	43	10	53
126	Mongolia	11	92	103
127	Montserrat	200	15	215
128	Morocco	116	438	554
129	Mozambique	22000	3000	25000
130	Myanmar	23	354	377
131	Namibia	50	450	500
132	Nauru	0	20	20
133	Nepal	0	700000	700000
134	Netherlands	178000	55613	233613
135	New Zealand	143000	157000	300000
136	Nicaragua	1	39	40
137	Niger	240	10	250
138	Nigeria	8	150	158
139	North Macedonia	52	43	95
140	Norway	12436	11593	24029
141	Oman	1754	660299	662053
142	Pakistan	0	0	0
143	Palau	0	29	29
144	Palestine	0	7	7
145	Panama	11000	4000	15000
146	Papua New Guinea	74	4000	4074
147	Paraguay	200	400	600
148	Peru	154	346	500
149	Philippines	2570	67430	70000
150	Poland	1300	30000	31300
151	Portugal	13682	90000	103682
152	Qatar	Data not available	8,30,491	8,30,491
153	Romania	362	10797	11159
154	Russia	2742	70000	72742
155	Rwanda	5	3000	3005
156	Saint Kitts & Nevis	100	500	600
157	Saint Lusia	18600	550	19150
158	Saint Vincent & Grenadines	6600	50	6650
159	Samoa	50	0	50

160	San Marino	0	0	0
161	Sao Tome	0	32	32
162	Saudi Arabia	0	2747551	2747551
163	Senegal	5	35	40
164	Serbia	20	10000	10020
165	Seychelles	5093	8245	13338
166	Sierra Leone	30	4500	4530
167	Singapore	107180	350000	457180
168	Sint Maarten	3000	2170	5170
169	Slovak Republic	60	5940	6000
170	Slovenia	86	822	908
171	Solomon Islands	0	20	20
172	Somolia	0	100	100
173	South Africa	1318431	74057	1392488
174	South Sudan	0	980	980
175	Spain	16635	51606	68241
176	Sri Lanka	1600000	7500	1607500
177	Sudan	55	85	140
178	Suriname	187700	1350	189050
179	Sweden	93180	22680	115860
180	Switzerland	9400	19,200	28,600
181	Syria	0	39	39
182	Taiwan	408	4641	5049
183	Tajikistan	0	400	400
184	Tanzania	40,000	15,000	55,000
185	Thailand	135179	30236	165415
186	Timor Leste	Data not available	Data not available	Data not available
187	Togo	10	1300	1310
188	Tonga	50	5	55
189	Trinidad & Tobago	548286	1259	549545
190	Tunisia	9	80	89
191	Turkiye	386	3635	4021
192	Turkmenistan	4	105	109
193	Turks & Caicos Islands	50	200	250
194	Tuvalu	20	0	20
195	Uganda	9000	30000	39000
196	Ukraine	739	1952	2691
197	UAE	6614	38,90,953	3897567
198	U.K.	970969	369000	1339969
199	U.S.A.	3775194	1918415	5693609
200	Uruguay	50	950	1000
201	Uzbekistan	61	16080	16141
202	Vanuatu	15	0	15
203	Venezuela	21	38	59
204	Vietnam	817	7200	8017

205	Yemen	420	700	1120
206	Zambia	5000	25000	30000
207	Zimbabwe	9000	1000	10000
Total		17181071	17175122	34356193

Indian-origin elected representatives in Foreign Governments

S.No.	Name of the Country	No. of Indian-origin elected representatives in foreign governments
1	Argentina	1
2	Australia	2
3	Bahamas	1
4	Fiji	17
5	Finland	1
6	France	24
7	Guyana	33
8	Jamaica	4
9	Kenya	2
10	Madagascar	1
11	Malaysia	17
12	Mauritius	45
13	Mozambique	1
14	New Zealand	2
15	Papua New Guinea	1
16	Portugal	3
17	Russia	1
18	Seychelles	4
19	Singapore	7
20	South Africa	12
21	Sri Lanka	2
22	Suriname	21
23	Switzerland	1
24	Tanzania	1
25	Trinidad & Tobago	18
26	United Kingdom	31
27	USA	6
28	Zambia	1
29	Zimbabwe	1
TOTAL		261
