PANEL 15

भारतीय प्रवासी- सांस्कृतिक प्रभाव Indian Diaspora- Cultural Impact

An inaugural speech delivered by Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee on the occasion of Pravasi Diwas Conference in the year 2004

"I am delighted to be with all of you once again at this inaugural function of the 2nd Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. I still carry the memory and melody of that occasion, exactly a year ago, when we were left enchanted by the jugalbandi of Ustad Bismillah Khan's shehnai and Pandit Ravi Shankar's sitar. What they together created was both soul-stirring music and a pointed metaphor and we felt the same way today as we heard another enchanted Jugalbandi by L. Subramaniam and Sultan Khan. It reminded us that Pravasi Bharatiya Divas itself is a celebration of the jugalbandi between the 22-millionstrong Indian Diaspora and your motherland, between the Bharatvasis and the Bharatvanshis..."

-ATAL BEHARI VAJPAYEE, 2004

