

to serve the entire com-

NATIONAL Party leader  
Syed Qayyum Shah.

Khursheed Ahmed Junejo (fourth from right) with community leaders at Pakistan embassy in Abu Dhabi.

# Singapore attracts Indian diaspora

BY IMRAN MOJIB

INDIANS living in the UAE expect that India's ties with Singapore would take a giant leap as the island state is set to host the first-ever Asia-Pacific Indian diaspora event from Oct. 9-11, which is expected to attract non-resident Indians from the Asean region.

The Singapore's Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Balaji Sadasivan was recently in Dubai to invite the rich Indian diaspora to the unique event.

Speaking at a reception hosted in his honour by India Club, Dubai, the minister said more than 500 distinguished delegates, comprising of high profile personalities from Asia-Pacific's business fraternity, key governmental institutions and leading academic think-tanks are expected to attend the three-day event.

Modelled after the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) event held annually in India, this business fo-

ocused conference will provide a rare opportunity for delegates to get insights into contemporary business and investment opportunities in India.

"India's annual Pravasi

Bharatiya Divas is seen as a festive conclave with a global reach. But during the "PBD Singapore," no social or cultural problems of the diaspora will be discussed. The objective is to

promote an event with a difference, which will be in tune with the City State's efforts to remain an economic hub in the Asia-Pacific zone," said the minister.

All four of Singapore's top leaders will address the Indian diaspora on the opening day of the PBD Singapore. While Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong will formally

inaugurate the two-day conference, Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong will host a lunch dialogue with the participants. Later, an interactive session has been scheduled with Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew, while President SR Nathan will be the chief guest at the dinner for the delegates.

Earlier, welcoming the minister Consul General of India in Dubai Venu Rajamony said that the leaders of Singapore have shown as much commitment for India's growth as for Singapore.

"The people and government of Singapore have always stood for people and government of India. There are few countries, we value friendship as we do Singapore's," he said.

Earlier, India Club chairman Sunil Singh welcomed the minister in traditional manner and presented a shawl. Singapore's Consul General in Dubai Dileep Nair was also present on the occasion.



Sunil Singh, Dr Balaji Sadasivan, Venu Rajamony and Dileep Nair at the reception hosted by India Club, Dubai.

Kamal Kassim / The Gulf Today

Arab Western fusion ...