



**Embassy of India
Vientiane**

First Pravasi Bhartiya Samman Award for Lao National



Mr Soukthavy Chowdhury, Chairman & Managing Director of the HSMM Group of Companies, has been bestowed with the prestigious Pravasi Bhartiya Samman Award this year. He is the first Lao national of Indian origin to receive the Award.

Pravasi Bhartiya Samman is India's highest honor recognizing the contributions and achievements of Indian diaspora, from the President of India. Mr Chowdhury received the distinguished decoration from the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu on 9th January, for his pioneering contribution in promoting business opportunities in Lao PDR through his various entrepreneurial ventures and enhancing India- Lao PDR Partnership.

Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas is celebrated on 9th January to commemorate the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India. Constituted in 2003, it is celebrated once every two years to recognize the contributions and strengthen the engagement of the overseas Indian community with Government of India and reconnect them with their cultural roots.

The 18th Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas is being celebrated in Bhubaneswar from 8th -10th January 2025. The theme for Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas this year is "Diaspora's Contribution to a Viksit Bharat".