

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

NOVEMBER, 2025

Pravasi

SAMWAD

SPECIAL EDITION: **PRAVASI BHARATIYA SAMMAN AWARD 2025**

GLOBAL HEARTS INDIAN ROOTS

INSIDE: 11 INTERVIEWS OF PRAVASI HEROES



A LEGACY MEDIA PRODUCT IN COLLABORATION WITH
MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT SKILLS COUNCIL

डॉ. सैयद अनवर खुरशीद का “चिकित्सा विज्ञान” में अहम योगदान है। 45 से अधिक वर्षों के अनुभव के साथ उन्होंने आपातकालीन चिकित्सा, गंभीर देखभाल और रोगी प्रबंधन में ख्याति अर्जित की है। उन्होंने ताइफ में अंतरराष्ट्रीय भारतीय विद्यालय की स्थापना की है। साथ ही सददी अरब में आयुष को बढ़ावा देने में सक्रिय हैं।

Dr. Syed Anwar Khursheed

A LIFE OF HEALING, LEADERSHIP AND LEGACY



From Gulbarga to global impact, Dr. Khursheed's journey demonstrates unwavering determination, humility, and a life devoted to service—an enduring inspiration not only to the Indian diaspora, but to all who believe in the strength of purpose and perseverance

When Dr. Syed Anwar Khursheed, a native of Gulbarga in Karnataka, stepped into the world of medicine, he carried with him more than a stethoscope and textbooks.

He carried an unshakable resolve. Decades later, this resolve has earned him plaudits, recognition and several awards.

“Indians get treated better overseas. The image has improved for us on an operational basis,” he reflects, speaking of India's growing global stature.

That improvement is not just reflected in the corridors of diplomacy but also in hospital wards, classrooms, and community centers—places where Dr. Khursheed has left an indelible mark.

With over 45 years of service in

Saudi Arabia, Dr. Khursheed has stood as a beacon of trust and excellence in healthcare. His pivotal role at King Faisal Hospital in Taif and later as a Royal Protocol physician, marked him as one of the Kingdom's most respected medical professionals.

“Many NRIs feel lonely at the beginning of their journey but that often leads to them becoming pioneers,” he tells Pravasi Samwad. Indeed, Dr. Khursheed did more than just pioneer medical standards; he initiated a path of service, community building, and bilateral goodwill.

Dr. Khursheed has been awarded the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award 2025 for his contribution to “Medical Science” in Saudi Arabia.

He expressed his heartfelt appreciation

to the Consulate General of India in Jeddah and the Embassy of India in Riyadh for their unwavering support to the Indian community in Saudi Arabia, whether during challenging times or during celebrations.

“I consider myself fortunate to share a strong connection with both the Consulate General in Jeddah and the Embassy in Riyadh. I am truly grateful for their continued support in my efforts to serve the community,” he says.

“Thanks to their initiatives, we celebrate numerous cultural events throughout the year, which help us stay rooted in our heritage. These occasions also provide us with the invaluable opportunity to engage with visiting dignitaries from India.”



Dr. Syed Anwar Khursheed receiving the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award from the President Smt. Droupadi Murmu.



↑ External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar met a delegation from Saudi Arabia on the sidelines of 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2025. Dr Khursheed is on the left of the minister.

A Lifeline in Times of Crisis

During the global Covid pandemic, when fear and uncertainty loomed large, Dr. Khursheed became a constant source of hope. He worked tirelessly to assist the Indian diaspora in Saudi Arabia, ensuring they received timely consultations, vaccines, and care.

“There will be a need to solidify the initiatives for unifying the NRI community and keep the momentum going on,” he says—words he lived by during the crisis.

Healing During Hajj

For over three decades, Dr. Khursheed has been a vital part of the medical response team during Hajj, one of the world’s largest gatherings. From setting up critical care units in Mina and Arafat to training medical units and designing emergency protocols, his contributions have safeguarded the health of millions.

Education as a Legacy

A visionary beyond the clinic, Dr. Khursheed founded the International

Indian School in Taif, a cornerstone of educational excellence for expatriate families. His efforts laid the groundwork for other Indian educational institutions across Saudi Arabia, promoting academic standards while preserving cultural identity.

Currently serving as Vice President of the Saudi-Indian Healthcare Forum, he is a key figure in enhancing bilateral medical cooperation. His deep understanding of Saudi culture and fluency in Arabic have allowed him to act as a cultural bridge,

strengthening the bond between the Indian diaspora and their host country.

“NRIs have contributed immensely to the Indian GDP in terms of remittances, labour and other contributions,” he asserts.

“There needs to be a recognition of their salaries/livelihoods and they should be given tax incentives. NRI diaspora would also like to be involved in voting from overseas,” he asserts.

The Power of Community

A firm believer in community support, Dr. Khursheed has led social welfare initiatives through organisations like the Gulbarga Welfare Society and MESCO, ensuring aid reaches underprivileged Indians in Saudi Arabia. He also champions AYUSH medicine, promoting its integration and acceptance in the Gulf.

“Yes, many NRIs are assisting and contributing towards their own hometown in India,” he acknowledges. “But more can be done, and NRIs need to be guided by pre-planned activities.”

A Call for Connection

Despite his success, Dr. Khursheed is sensitive to the emotional journey of NRIs. He proposes a simple yet powerful solution to the feeling of alienation that some may experience.

“If the NRIs are given a sense of community and attachment from the Indian embassies abroad, it will help them. Having regular cultural events for NRIs will be a good step.”

“I was deeply humbled to be felicitated by the Indian Ambassador during the Republic Day flag-hoisting ceremony in recognition of the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award. Several

social organisations in Riyadh have also honoured the achievement with special felicitation events.”

He has been touched by the emotional response of folks back in his hometown of Gulbarga where preparations were underway for a grand reception. He happens to be the first recipient of this PBSA award from Karnataka.

A Legacy That Transcends Borders

With his name now etched among PBSA luminaries, Dr. Khursheed remains not just a medical expert, but a humanitarian, educator, and a bridge-builder.

His story is one of resolve, humility, and lifelong service—a tale that continues to inspire not just the Indian diaspora, but all those who believe in the power of purpose and perseverance.

“Let the seeds we sow today become fruits for generations to come,” he says. ■

“NRIs have contributed immensely to the Indian GDP in terms of remittances, labour and other contributions.”



The International Indian Professionals Association (IIPA) bestows an award to Dr. Syed Anwar Khursheed in Riyadh. (Below) Dr Khursheed with Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan, India's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

