



Buzzing around

Simanta / Mridumoloy

Pride of Assam

HELD every year since 2003, Pravasi Bharatiya Divas conventions provide a platform to the overseas Indian community to engage with the government and people of the land of their ancestors for mutually beneficial activities. During the event, individuals of exceptional merit are honoured with the prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award to appreciate their role in India's growth.

This year, thirteen overseas Indians, including Wahid Saleh from Assam, were awarded Pravasi Bharatiya Samman for contributions to their



Wahid Saleh receiving the award from the President

countries of domicile and enhancing India's image globally. Saleh received the award from President Pratibha Devi Singh Patil at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi recently and was also given the rare honour of making the acceptance speech on behalf of all the recipients.

Hailing from Jorhat, Wahid Saleh took his engineering degree in Kerala and in 1963 he went to Germany for higher training. In 1968, he moved to The Netherlands for further studies and was employed in a responsible position. In his adopted country, he has been socially very active, serving in numerous civic, community and cultural organizations, besides guiding the creation of the Dutch Indian Youth Association (DIYA). Wahid Saleh has also established an educational trust for higher education in Assam, contributing funds handsomely.

In April 2002, he was awarded the prestigious Dutch honour, Ridder in de Orde van Oranje-Nassau (Knight in the Order of Orange-Nassau). Also a recipient of several other community service awards, Wahid Saleh is a member of the board of directors of several organizations both in and outside Europe. He has authored the book *Indiawijzer — India in Nederland*, a reference guide on Indian culture in The Netherlands and also developed and maintains the website www.indiawijzer.nl with India-related information.