



CELEBRATION OF THE FIRST INDIA DAY AT FARMLEIGH HOUSE, DUBLIN ON 5 SEPTEMBER 2015.



H.E. Mrs. Radhika Lal Lokesh, Ambassador interacting with H. E. Ms. Joan Burton, the Deputy Prime Minister of Ireland during the India Day event.

First ever India Day was celebrated on 5th September 2015 at prestigious Farmleigh House, Phoenix Park, Dublin by the Indian community settled in Ireland with the theme 'Unity in Diversity'. Around 500 people from all walks of life participated in the day-long event which was an open public event.

Ms. Joan Burton, Deputy Prime Minister along with Smt. Radhika L. Lokesh, Ambassador of India to Ireland officially inaugurated the event. Minister for Social Welfare, Mr. Eric Byrne, TD, and several prominent members of the Irish-Indian Community also attended the event. The event, supported by India Tourism and the Embassy, showcased Indian cuisine, Indian culture and handicrafts. A cultural programme representing various regions and languages of India was organised on the occasion.

In her opening remarks, Minister Joan Burton praised the contribu-

tion of the Indian community to the Irish society. She mentioned the dedication and commitment of the Indian community both in IT and health sectors which had contributed to the economic development of Ireland. Joan Burton also recalled the historical links between Ireland and India dating back to the freedom movement. These relations were further strengthened by visits of both Indian and Irish leaders.

In her remarks, the Ambassador Smt. Radhika L. Lokesh appreciated the efforts of the various associations and members of the Indian community in organising the first ever India Day. She also thanked the Irish Government for the support extended to the Indian Community. The number of Indian professionals in IT and health sector as also students had grown over the last few years. She acknowledged the contribution of the community to the socio-economic development of Ireland which has earned them respect and urged the community to also contribute to the growth story of India.



India Day event opening ceremony with traditional lamp lighting by Ambassador and other dignitaries.



Ambassador addressing during the India Day event.

THE FIRST IIBA CONFERENCE INDIA: IRELAND 'CULTURE, DIVERSITY AND WOMEN IN BUSINESS CONFERENCE' REVIEWED HISTORICAL AND CURRENT BILATERAL TIES BETWEEN IRELAND AND INDIA



H.E. Mrs. Radhika Lal Lokesh, Ambassador, Embassy of India in Ireland addressing the Conference



H.E. Mr. Leo Varadkar, Minister for Health speaking during the Conference.



In the picture are (left to right) H. E. Mrs. Radhika Lokesh, Ambassador, Prof. Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh, Dean, UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School, Ms. NilaKanthi Ford, Chairperson, IIBA and Ms. Maeve Collins, Regional Director, Asia Pacific Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The first Ireland India Business Association (IIBA) conference 'Culture, Diversity and Women in Business', took place on 24 September 2015 in UCD, Smurfit School of Business. Following the auspicious visit of Honourable Prime Minister Modi to Ireland on the previous day, spirits were high regarding bilateral links and last minute bookings took the Conference numbers to over 100 attendees. The conference examined how the creation and maintenance of balance in culture, diversity and gender is smart business economics that helps to increase company profits and encourages innovation and problem solving in bilateral trade.

Conference speakers included Minister for Health, Leo Varadkar, HE Mrs Radhika Lal Lokesh, Ambassador for India to Ireland, Bibi Baskin, broadcaster RTE and BBC, Sheetal Mehta Walsh, Founder and President of Shanti Life, Maeve Collins Department of Foreign Affairs, Andrew Kavanagh, Kavaleer Productions, Paul Rowe, Educate togeth-

er, Alice Tolan Eircom, Fiana Griffin cultural expert and Nilakanthi Ford, Chairman IIBA.

The speakers focussed on the bigger India-Ireland picture and delved into the history and richness of bilateral links between India and Ireland, as well as looking forward to the future of bilateral business relationships following the first visit of an Indian Prime Minister to Ireland since 1956.

The IIBA conference was to commemorate the centenary of the first journey of Irishwoman Margaret Cousins to India. She was subsequently to become the first female District Judge in India, went on to found the Indian All Women's Conference and is attributed to have composed the tune of the Indian National Anthem, which is still used today. Her history underpins the long history of engagement between India and Ireland.

6TH INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL OF IRELAND



Noted film Director Muzaffar Ali speaking at the inauguration of the 6th IFFI.

The 6th Indian film festival of Ireland was held from 25th - 27th September 2015 at Dublin, Ireland. The festival was inaugurated by Ambassador Smt. Radhika Lal Lokesh with the screening of Hindi film JAANISAAR - a powerful film about the first freedom struggle of 1857 in the region of Awadh (UP) directed by renowned Director Muzaffar Ali. Mr. Muzaffar Ali and Producer Meera Ali attended the film festival as the guests and were honoured at the opening ceremony as Director in focus and Producer in focus respectively. The awards were felicitated by Her Excellency Radhika Lal Lokesh, the Indian Ambassador to Ireland and the festival patrons.



Street poster for the 6th IFFI.



Ambassador Mrs. Radhika Lal Lokesh speaking at the press launch of the Film Festival



The pre- screening reception was very well attended and appreciated by the guests.

It was a 3-day festival with screening of Indian films at various different venues including City centre and Lexicon theatre.

Extensive talks with the audience and an interactive session was held

at the Chester Beatty Library and Museum post screening of the director's classical film UMRAO JAAN.

Screening of Indian films always generate an interest among the students in Ireland and this year also the screenings were very successful like previous years and several primary and secondary schools attended the Indian film screenings.