



Embassy of India, Ireland

NEWSLETTER
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THE RANJI TROPHY - IRELAND

While India has its famous 'RANJI CUP' Ireland too has its own, less famous, 'RANJI TROPHY' and 'Ranji Cricket Tournament' played each year in Dublin to commemorate the legendary cricketer's association with the Emerald Isle where, in the 1920s, he



acquired a home, Ballynahinch Castle, in Connemara in the west of Ireland

And, over the next few years, as Ireland commemorates her many steps towards independence, from the 1916 Easter Rising to the ending of the Civil War in 1923, as Irish author Anne Chambers, chair of the Ranji Cricket Committee of Ireland (RCCI) pointed out at the recent media launch for this year's Ranji Cricket Tournament, 'it is an opportune time to remember some national events associated

Event commemorating the launch of the Ranji Cricket Event of Ireland. The annual event will take place on 7 May 2016 at Phoenix Park, Dublin.

with the Jam Sahib Ranjitsinhji, ruler of the State of Nawanagar, or as he became known in Ireland - the Ranji.'

Anne Chambers is author of the biography *RANJI: MAHARAJAH OF CONNEMARA* published in Ireland and India. A new edition is to be published next year.

Sourced from rare documents from state and private archives and from the personal stories of the people who knew and worked for him in Ireland, for the first time, the biography brings to light the intriguing story of the famous Maharajah's relationship with Ireland.

Among the many fascinating historic connections between Ranji and Ireland, as Anne Chambers notes is when serving as Vice-President of the General Committee at the



League of Nations in Geneva in 1923, Ranji met and entertained the Irish delegation of the new Irish Free State, lead by President W. T Cosgrave. Ranji supported the Irish in their quest to attain status as an independent state at the Conference, while they, in turn, supported Ranji regarding the status and rights of the Indian minority in South Africa.

Ranji subsequently became the first head of state to officially visit the new Irish Free State. Arriving in Dublin on the 17 July 1924 he was accorded full military and state honours by the new Government.

In August 1924 Ranji was guest of honour at the *Tailteann Games* (Irish equivalent of the Olympic Games) held in Croke Park. In a speech at the formal dinner to celebrate the event Ranji praised the new Free State Government

‘for the transparent patriotism of the service they give to Ireland...

They say it is noble to die for one’s country but it is also noble to live for one’s country.’

He further declared

‘his confident belief in the development of a prosperous, a happy and a united Ireland and in the greatness of the contribution

which Ireland will make to our great Commonwealth of Nations.

God bless Ireland.’



“... better known as ‘Ranji’ ...”

By his presence in Ireland in the 1920s Ranji also contributed to the fledgling tourism industry. Deemed unstable and dangerous by the outside world, the decision of such a high-profile figure to adopt Ireland as his home from home boosted the country's appeal as a tourist destination. As one Irish Tourist Board poster of the time declared:

'Ireland- if its safe enough for Ranji its safe enough for anyone'

It was in his new home in Connemara that 'the Ranji' made his greatest impact. He was a benevolent and much-loved employer, a supporter of local cottage industries and of the breeding of the Connemara pony. His annual arrival in Ballynahinch was greeted with bonfires and celebrations and his memory is still revered there today. His nieces attended the local Benedictine convent in Kylemore.

To honour Ranji's efforts in bridging racial boundaries during his lifetime, both on and off the playing pitch, and to promote Irish-Indian relations today, Anne Chambers donated a perpetual trophy – The Ranji Trophy – for an annual cricket competition to be played in his memory.



HE Mrs. Radhika Lal Lokesh, Ambassador, Mr Sanjeeb Barik and Ms Anne Chambers Ranji Cricket Committee

The event is organised by the Ranji Cricket Committee of Ireland (RCCI) www.ranji.ie and is played by multi-cultural teams, many drawn from global companies including, Google, Microsoft, Facebook, Intel, Amazon etc headquartered in Dublin, as well as from Irish companies.

Educate Together, an inclusive multicultural educational organisation, with respect for cultural difference and diversity at its core, is the designated charity for the event, which is supported by the Indian Embassy, Trinity College, through its South Asia Educational Initiative, UNITAS, SARI, Ireland-India Business Association and Ballynahinch Castle Hotel.

The 2016 Ranji Cricket Tournament will be played on Saturday 7 May in the Civil Service Cricket Grounds, Phoenix Park.

A children's fun cricket competition as well as cultural and culinary events will take place in the afternoon to make for a great free family day and one which undoubtedly 'the Ranji' would approve.■■■



Know India Programme

To familiarize Indian Diaspora youth with India's culture, heritage and also with contemporary India, Ministry of External Affairs is organizing the next edition of Know India Programme (KIP) for a duration of 27 days. The KIP participants will spend nearly 10 days in a select State. Focus of KIP will be "Maharashtra State", and is scheduled from 05 May to 01 June, 2016.

The highlight of this year's KIP is a tour of Maharashtra, on board the luxury train "Deccan Odyssey". [Guidelines for KIP, application form and itinerary](http://www.indianembassy.ie/news_detail.php?id=72) for the KIP can be seen at http://www.indianembassy.ie/news_detail.php?id=72. This programme is open only for Indian origin Diaspora youth in age group of 18-26 years. NRIs are not eligible. Preference would be given to PIOs who have not visited India so far.

Selected participants have to purchase their flight ticket for their journey from the country of residence to India and back, as per schedule prescribed by the Ministry. Concerned Indian Mission/Post would reimburse 90% (ninety percent) of the total cost of air ticket (at lowest economy excursion fare) to participants on successful completion of the programme by them.

Completed application forms should be submitted to the Head of Chancery, Embassy of India, 6 Leeson Park, Dublin – 6 latest by 07 April 2016.■■■

Ms. Croke's visit to India



Ms. Fionnuala Croke, Director, Chester Beatty Library visited India under the ICCR's Distinguished Visited Programme from 21-29 February 2016.

During the visit Ms. Croke had visited prominent museums of India such as National Museum, Delhi and Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad. ■

Holi

The Indian festival of Colour 'Holi' was celebrated with great joy on 26 March 2016 at Naomh Olaf GAA Club, Dublin. H.E. Mrs. Radhika Lal Lokesh, Ambassador attended the event and greeted the community on this occasion. ■



Video performance reciting Sanskrit poem 'Shivoham' by the pupils of the John Scottus School, Dublin



A video performance by the pupils of the John Scottus School Primary School, Dublin based on a poem by Adi Shankar was telecast on DD Television on 12-13 March 2016. The video clip was prepared under the direction of Mr. Rutger Kortenhorst, a teacher at the John Scottus Primary School who is actively engaged in the propagation of Sanskrit in Ireland.

The video can be seen at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqjqFo7Lnj0&ab>. ■

Talk by Ms. Chitra Ramkrishna, CEO & MD, National Stock Exchange of India Ltd.



File picture

In order to connect with senior executives across Irish investment and capital market with the Indian capital markets and the role NSE plays, Ms. Chitra Ramkrishna, CEO & MD, National Stock Exchange of India Ltd. delivered a talk titled 'Opportunities in Indian Capital Market' on 21 March 2016 at The Spencer Hotel, Dublin. The talk was attended by Irish business people interested in Indian stock market. ■

Participation of Indian Association of Sligo in St. Patrick's Day Parade



Indian Association of Sligo Participated in St. Patrick's Day parade on 17 March 2016 with the "1916 Rising" theme. Indian Association of Sligo was awarded in the category of "Highly commended" from Sligo parade organisers. ■

Consular News



The date for Submission of the application for registration as OCI cardholder by the erstwhile PIO cardholder has been extended **till 30.06.2016**.

For more details please visit <http://www.indianembassy.ie/eoi.php?id=PIO>.

In India's Growth Story, You Write the Next Chapter

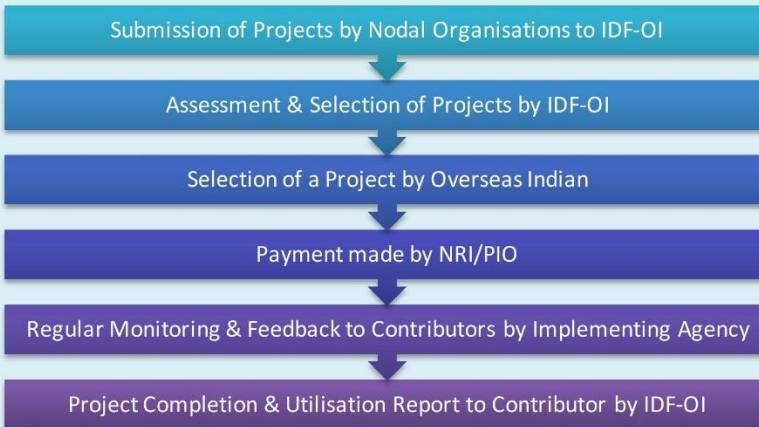


India Development Foundation
of Overseas Indians

The India Development Foundation of Overseas Indians (IDF-OI) is a not-for-profit Trust established by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs which enables overseas Indians to contribute to social and development projects in India. The Trust is exempt from the provisions of Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 2010

The Trust is chaired by Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Hon'ble Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs. Other Board members are prominent overseas Indians, eminent resident Indians and Senior Government of India officials.

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Tamil Nadu and Odisha



"Although, the Indian Diaspora is a very heterogeneous group, there is a common factor which binds them - their desire to maintain their connection with their homeland and to contribute to the social and development efforts in India. We are seeking to strengthen and deepen our relationship through IDF-OI."

Smt. Sushma Swaraj
Hon'ble Minister of Overseas
Indian Affairs &
Chairperson, IDF-OI

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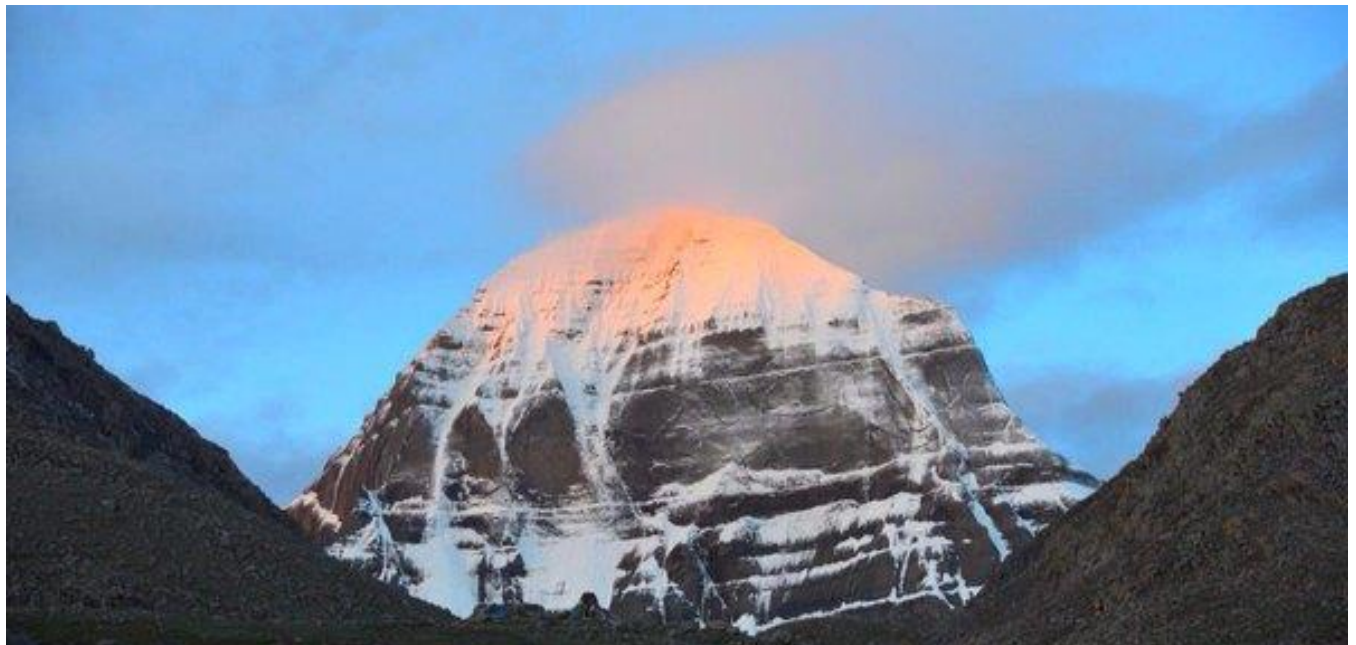
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Standing together for nuclear security. Prime Minister Narendra Modi joins leaders for the family photo at Nuclear Security Summit 2016.



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