



Ard-Chonsalacht na hÉireann | Mumbai
Consulate General of Ireland | Mumbai

Newsletter 2022

Anita Kelly – Our new Consul General

We welcomed our new Consul General Anita Kelly in September. Anita continues to engage with the local Indian business sector and facilitates the promotion of Ireland's economic interests by speaking at business events, Education in Ireland Fairs and visiting Irish businesses. During the year, the Consulate worked to explore trade related opportunities across multiple sectors including technology and artificial intelligence, financial services, film production, food, nutrition and beverages, engaging with key Indian and Irish stakeholders.

Saint Patrick's Day 2022 – National Day of Ireland

The year's activity kicked off with a strong start, seeing the visit of our Minister for Trade Promotion, Robert Troy, T.D. for St Patrick's Day. The Minister officially inaugurated Ireland House in BKC, home to our Consulate and the offices of Enterprise Ireland, who are responsible for the development and growth of Irish enterprises in world markets, and IDA, Ireland's inward investment promotion agency. Minister Troy undertook a comprehensive trade-focused programme, meeting with a number of client companies of Enterprise Ireland and IDA. We hosted our official St. Patrick's Day reception with guests from local Government and the business, cultural, education, diplomatic and Irish communities.



Culture Matters

A key role of the Consulate is to create cultural links between our two nations, and we were proud to deepen this engagement starting with the exhibition by artist Michelle Boyle at the Jehangir Art Gallery Mumbai. We visited Ganesh pandals during Ganesh Utsav with the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation. We continued our strong partnerships with Tata Lit Live and the Asiatic Society, where Prof Jane Ohlmeyer of Trinity College Dublin spoke about the contribution of the second Governor of Bombay Irishman Gerald Aungier, to the growth of the city during his tenure from 1669-77. Diwali was celebrated in our office, and we hosted Mumbai friends to watch the Ireland-India T20 matches. Vice Consul Alison Reilly presented at Ahmedabad International Literature Festival **And...the BMC building went Green for St Patrick's Day!**

Finally, we were delighted to participate in the spectacular 'Beating Retreat' and 'Tattoo Ceremony' during Navy Week, presided over by the Governor of Maharashtra.



Our Values

The Ireland-India relationship is rooted in common values, and we have a shared interest in working for a fairer, just, secure and sustainable world. To mark the 75th Anniversary of Indian Independence, and Ireland's Decade of Centenaries, we created our Profiles of Independence campaign to show how our independence movements influenced and supported each other. CG Anita Kelly and Ambassador Brendan Ward attended with a delegation from Ireland at the Special Meeting of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee held in Mumbai, which paid tribute to victims of terrorism, and examined strategies for combatting terrorist financing and the use of technologies for terrorist purposes.

The Consulate worked with Red Dot Foundation bringing together Irish and Indian students for a dynamic and successful data visualisation challenge on women's safety. CG Anita participated in a Beach Clean-Up Drive in Juhu with other EU missions and the Afroz Shah Foundation. We continued our social media campaigns to highlight global human rights and health issues, including the Big Pink Breakfast and 16 Days of Activism.



Travel Resumes

Tourism Ireland continues to promote Ireland as a tourism destination, collaborating with the Irish Embassy and Cricket Ireland on the occasion of India V/S Ireland cricket matches in Dublin in June to create four promotional videos on tourism and education featuring legendary cricketers Kevin O'Brien and Rohan Gavaskar. We're looking forward already to the 2030 ICC Men's T20 World Cup, which Ireland will co-host alongside England and Scotland.

Tourism Ireland also featured Divya Dutta's visit to Ireland earlier this year as she attended the Indian Film Festival, working with the actor to promote key Dublin attractions.

Visas

Ireland prides itself in offering a simple and efficient visa process, and we are pleased to say that our median visa processing time for visas issued in 2022 was 10 working days, with business and employment visa being processed within 5-8 working days, and visit and study applications processed in 12-15 working days. Visa applications from residents of India can be submitted at one of our 12 visa application centres, each managed by Visa Facilitation Service (VFS). VFS offer a number of additional services – such as their premium lounge, 'Check & Verify' and SMS alerts – which makes document submission a relaxed and comfortable affair, provides confidence in the quality of the application, and ensures applicants are kept abreast of their visa status. Visas are then processed at the Embassy of Ireland in New Delhi. For further information on how to apply, and processing times, see the Embassy website [here](#).

