

High Commissioner's Visit

Birmingham

Shiv Shankar Mukherjee, High Commissioner of India to Britain, called on the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Cllr. Chaudhry Abdul Rashid, during his official visit to Birmingham from October 13-14. He also met the Leader of the City Council Cllr. Mike Whitby and held round-table discussions with the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry represented by Jerry Blacket, CEO, Jonathan Webber, Head of International Trade and others. At Aston University and Aston Business School, the High Commissioner held discussions with the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Julia King, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Prof. Helen Higson, Dean, Michael West and Prof. Pawan Budhwar of International Human Resource Management.

High Commissioner also visited the TATA Jaguar and Land Rover complex at Castle Bromwich and held discussions with CEO David Smith, head of Tata International, S.A. Hassan and others. On October 13, a function was held at the Consulate where the High Commissioner interacted with the Indian community. BBC Midlands and



The High Commissioner interacting with members of the Indian community at the Consulate.



The High Commissioner with Lord Mayor of Birmingham Cllr Chaudhry Abdul Rashid.

business editor of *Birmingham Post and Mail* interviewed the High Commissioner about his vision for the Midlands region.

Manchester

The High Commissioner made an official visit to Manchester from October 16-17, and called on the Deputy Leader of Manchester City Council, Cllr. Val Stevens, at the Manchester Town Hall. However, both the Lord Mayor and Leader of the City Council were not in town. The programme at Manchester included a business meeting with members of the North West Development Agency, UK-India Business Council, UK Trade Investment, the INDUS Entrepreneurs and International Business Centre for pursuing the Indian agenda in the context of Indo-U.K. Trade and Commerce. The Indian community held a reception on October 16 to welcome the High Commissioner. The reception was hosted by the Hindu Council, North of the U.K., Indian Association and



The High Commissioner interacting with the Deputy Leader of the Manchester City Council Cllr Val Stevens.

Indian Social & Sports Centre where invitees included the Police Chief Rob Taylor, Tim Newness of Manchester Inward Development Agency, Greg Woodlyn of The Jersey Partnership, Frank Robot ham of the Peel Ports Authority and Caroline Monks and Selma Asia from the North West Development Agency.

Leeds, Bradford

Yorkshire was the next city on the High Commissioner's itenary of official visits, from October 17-18. During the visit, he called on the Lord Mayor of Leeds, Cllr. Frank Robinson, and the Lady Mayor, Sheila Robinson, interacted with representatives of businesses that explored partnership opportunities on innovations in health and entrepreneurship at the Institute of Pharmaceuticals Innovation in the University of Bradford. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof. Jeff Lucas and

the director of the institute, Paul Thorning, hosted the event along with Mahendra Patel, immediate past president of the Yorkshire Indian Society.

Later that evening, the High Commissioner visited the Bradford Hindu Temple where he interacted with leading members of the Indian community. During this visit, the High Commissioner also spoke to the local BBC radio network and to the deputy business editor of the *CRAIN'S* business magazine.

Liverpool



The High Commissioner, the Consul-General, and Dr. Saxena with members of the Indian community at Liverpool.

The High Commissioner paid an official visit to Liverpool from October 22-23. His engagement in Liverpool included a courtesy call on the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Cllr. Steven Rotheram, business interactions at the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce and Industry with representatives of businesses led by Jack Stopforth, chief executive of Liverpool

Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The High Commissioner also visited the Peels Port and held discussions with the Peel Ports authorities, represented by Frank Robotham, marketing manager, and others. The Indian community from the Merseyside Indian Association held a reception for the High Commissioner at the Mayur Restaurant on October 22.

Blackburn

The High Commissioner made an official visit to Blackburn from October 23-24. During the visit, he called on the Mayor of Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, Cllr.

Mohammed Khan OBE. The Indian community represented by the India League held a reception for the High Commissioner on October 23 evening at the Jan Conference Centre.

Leicester

On October 24, the High Commissioner made an official visit to Leicester.

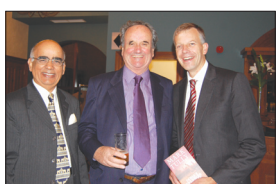
During the visit he called on the Lord Mayor of Leicester, Cllr. Manjula Sood and held discussions with Helen Deas, head of East Midlands India Business

Bureau, David Wallace, director International and Board Member of the East Midlands Development Agency and others.

The High Commissioner also formally launched the East Midlands India Business Bureau.

News from Belfast

Visit to strengthen academic and research links



Prof. Peter Gregson, President and Vice-Chancellor of Queen's University Belfast (right) with Lord Diljit Rana, Honorary Consul for India in Northern Ireland, and Mark Tully, British Indian journalist and author.

The visit by Professor Peter Gregson, President and Vice-Chancellor of Queen's University Belfast (QUB), to West Bengal will strengthen the existing university links between India and Northern Ireland. Gregson will be meeting political and academic figures in India. The key focus of the visit is to discuss further collaboration between QUB and the Bengal Engineering and Science University (BESU) at Shibpur. QUB has longstanding collaboration links with Calcutta University. A close friend of Lord Diljit Rana, Honorary Consul for India in Northern Ireland, Professor Gregson has been a driving force in developing links with universities and colleges across India.

Indian Community Centre wins new backing



The Indian Community Centre in Belfast



Belfast Lord Mayor Tom Hartley has been a frequent visitor to the Indian Community Centre

The impressive bridge-building work of the Indian Community Centre (ICC) in Belfast will benefit from a recently announced grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Established in 1981 by a group of Indian business people including Lord Rana, the ICC is situated in a former Methodist church hall close to the Belfast city centre. ICC has long been a hub for arts and cultural activities for the Indian community in Northern Ireland, and has a proud record of achievement in reaching out to the wider Northern Ireland community. All sections of the Belfast community, including political and religious leaders regularly join ICC members to celebrate occasions such as Republic Day and Diwali.