

Indians largest foreign-born community in London: ONS

London counts more people born in India than any other country among its foreign-born residents, official figures for the city of 7.3 million people reveal. Indian-born Londoners numbered 206,000 in the three months ending June this year, according to the Office of National Statistics (ONS), which is responsible for producing economic and social statistics, registering "life events" and holding the decennial population census.

It said this represented a great leap forward in the number of "Indian" Londoners from 1997, when there were 144,000 Indian-born residents in London, reports said.

But in 1997, said the ONS, Indian-born Londoners were not the dominant "foreign" presence because that distinction was still reserved for the Irish. Nearly a decade later,

Indians have emerged in pole position, as well as, arguably, in economic and entrepreneurial showing. In 2006, the Irish are trailing both Indian and Bangladeshi-born Londoners in the population league tables.

The ONS data says that one-in-three Londoners were born overseas and the city's population is a rich multi-ethnic, multi-racial, multi-religious and multi-cultural cocktail of Brazilians, Russians, Poles, Zimbabweans, South Africans, Australians, Americans, Japanese and Germans, apart from the three biggest foreign-born groups — Indian, Bangladeshi and the Irish. The population picture drives home London's status as Britain's most ethnically diverse region.

The new data also revealed that London has 658,000

more non-British-born residents today than in 1997.

The number of Britain-born Londoners has fallen by 150,000 since 1997 although they still number more than five million.

The ONS data, which its officials said was specially compiled in response to a leading London newspaper's questions, is based on data from the annual Labour Force Survey with interviews of more than 50,000 households.

Analysts and politicians said the flood of foreign-born residents into London was testament to its expanding economy and restless 24/7 work and party culture.

According to reports, long-time Londoners said the new statistical portrait of their city was consistent with its ever-changing population mix down the ages.

Lord Bilimoria makes maiden speech in Upper House

Lord Karan Bilimoria, CBE DL, founder and Chief Executive of Cobra Beer, on November 27 made his maiden speech in the House of Lords. The first ever Zoroastrian Parsi to sit in the House of Lords addressed his peers with a powerful and passionate speech about the importance of strengthening trade relations between India and Britain.

Lord Bilimoria was appointed as a cross-bench peer in July and as well as becoming the first ever Parsi, he also became one of the House's youngest peers. In his maiden speech to the House, he spoke of his pride at being the first Parsi to become a peer and went on to say: "Today the Parsis number fewer than 100,000 people in India... and I am so proud of what our tiny community has achieved, not only in India but also by producing the first three Asian MPs in Britain."

He also spoke about the importance of higher education and promoting an enterprising, entrepreneurial culture in Britain before turning his attentions to India and trade and investment saying: "India is one of the fastest-growing economies in the



Lord Karan Bilimoria, holding his maiden speech, in front of a painting of the first British Ambassador presenting his credentials in the Mughal court in India in the early 17th Century.

world, growing at 8 percent a year... India is well on its way to becoming a global economic superpower. And yet India accounts for only 1 percent of Britain's total trade and less than 1 percent of Britain's investment abroad meaning it presents a tremendous opportunity for British business."

Lord Bilimoria was appointed to the

House of Lords by the Appointments Commission, a non-statutory advisory body set up by Prime Minister Tony Blair to make recommendations for non-party-political peerages. The Commission's remit is to find people of distinction who will bring authority and expertise to the House of Lords.

Cardiff University to train Indian lawyers to service global clients

Cardiff University (U.K.) in partnership with Government Law College, Mumbai, and the British Council, Mumbai, are undertaking a programme to train law teachers in the city to impart knowledge on servicing clients in an increasingly globalised environment.

Commenting on the programme, Professor Thomas, Cardiff Law School, Cardiff University said, "The business opportunities arising out of globalisation are nowhere greater in India than in Mumbai. In this commercially thriving city, with its diverse cultures and mix of some of the best professional minds in the country, there is an opportunity for law profession-

als to truly globalise. This programme that we are undertaking aims to create the appropriate professional infra-structure for the legal profession in India and highlights the areas that need to be reformed."

"The course aims to help law teachers respond to changing business practices by producing graduates capable of servicing global capital developments as well as traditional needs," he added.

The programme also covers opportunities with the United Kingdom and the European Union.

Because of the historical ties between India and the United Kingdom, and the similarities in the respective countries' legal

systems, there is even more opportunity.

Some key trends that Indian law firms have been displaying still require a significant impetus. They include the increase in scale and size of law firms. By increasing in scale and size, firms will have the advantage of added expertise as well as a move towards reduced litigation-based situations. Another trend is the opportunity to infuse greater emphasis on legal research and development.

Law teachers from several law colleges will attend the course to be held at Government Law College. The course will also be run in Hyderabad, Raipur and Darjeeling.

A much-respected sports columnist for *The Daily Telegraph*, Mihir Bose, who takes charge as BBC's first ever sports editor, will provide analysis and context to the major sports news stories across BBC's news programming.

Bose was born in India and moved to England to pursue higher studies. He started his journalistic career at the *London Broadcasting Corporation*, before joining the *Sunday Times*.

Having concentrated on business journalism in his early years, he subsequently specialised in investigative sports reporting and moved to *The Daily Telegraph* in 1995. Bose's journalism has won a number

Mihir Bose is BBC's first Sports Editor



of awards, including Business Columnist of the Year, Sports Story of the Year and Sports News Reporter of the Year.

He has also presented on radio and television, including *BBC Radio 4's Financial World*

Tonight, South Asia Report on *BBC World Service* and *What the Papers Say* for *Channel 4*.

Bose is also a well-regarded author, having written 22 books on a range of subjects. Speaking of his appointment, Bose said: "I was brought up on the magical *World Service*, and believe that the *BBC* is the greatest broadcaster there is. It's a wonderful challenge and I can't wait to start."

The *BBC's* Head of Newsgathering, Fran Unsworth, said: "This is a terrific appointment for us. Mihir brings an encyclopaedic knowledge of sport, together with an unbridled passion for the subject."

HDFC debuts in the United Kingdom

With the Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited (HDFC) launching its operations in London, Indians living in the U.K. can now look forward to buying property in India. Located at Trafalgar Square, the Indian mortgage major will provide advisory services on housing finance and property acquisition in India.

This is HDFC's second overseas office. The first was opened in Dubai in 1995. Besides, seven franchisees across the Middle East also source home loans for HDFC. In fact, non-resident Indians account for 10 percent of HDFC's loan book.

"The buoyancy in Indian economy, coupled with the recent real estate boom, is attracting a large number of Indians abroad to invest in a property in India. It is estimated that the total Asian population in the U.K. is around 3.5 percent of which over 1.8 percent are Indians, with London having the largest concentration. This new office will provide us an excellent strategic position in assisting Indians in owning a property in their home land," said managing director Keki Mistry.



Dhoom2 at No. 6 on U.K. Top 10 charts

Dhoom 2, Yash Raj Films much-anticipated sequel to the 2004 action thriller '*Dhoom*', opened in 51 cinemas across the U.K. and raked in £451,000 in just four days — taking it to No. 6 on the U.K. Top 10 charts.

Starring Hrithik Roshan, Abhishek Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai, the film opened worldwide to a record-breaking weekend, its producers said in a press release.

The film, which sees Roshan playing a negative character for the first time, achieved a cinema average of £8,800 in the U.K. by collecting £451,000 in the opening weekend.

In the U.A.E., it opened bigger than even the latest James Bond film by taking 90,000 admissions on the opening weekend, compared to 66,000 for '*Casino Royale*'.