



Indian Diaspora Council

## **Indian Diaspora Council**

Shared heritage, aspirations and interests

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### **Congratulations to Hon. Leo Varadkhar, Ireland's new Prime Minister**

The **Indian Diaspora Council (IDC)** joins with its global membership and affiliates and others in congratulating Hon. Leo Varadkhar who was elected Ireland's new Prime Minister after winning Fine Gael party's leadership contest. People of Indian origin are a small percentage of the Ireland's population of approximately 5 million, and the 38-year-old son of an Indian immigrant will become the Ireland's youngest prime minister.

Varadkhar becomes Ireland's first prime minister of an ethnic-minority background. Varadkar's father Ashok, a doctor from Mumbai, met his mother Miriam, an Irish nurse, while they were both working at an English hospital in Slough in the 1960s.

Varadkar, a doctor educated at Trinity College Dublin, entered Irish politics in 2004 when he polled almost 5,000 votes in a local government election in the Dublin West constituency. Three years later, he was elected to represent the area in parliament. In 2014, he became Ireland's minister for health and after Fine Gael suffered losses in last year's general election, he entered a minority coalition as minister for social protection

"If my election today shows anything, it is that prejudice has no hold in this Republic," Varadkar said after the results were announced, adding: "Around the world people look to Ireland as a country where it doesn't matter where you come from, only where you want to go."

Outgoing Prime Minister Enda Kenny said, "This is a tremendous honor for him and I know he will devote his life to improving the lives of people across our country. He will have my full support in the work that lies ahead."

IDC is pleased to acknowledge that Varadkhar's election as Prime Minister of Ireland is truly historic and among the most outstanding achievements of people of Indian origin globally.



*Hon. Leo Varadkhar, Prime Minister of Ireland*

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*Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC), established in 1997, is an international non-profit organization with global affiliates and membership in 21 countries with the objective to embrace, engage and enhance the shared heritage, aspirations and interests of persons of Indian origin with optimum inclusivity.*