

**Ambassador's speech at Indian Ladies Association  
new premises inauguration ceremony  
26 June, 2023 (1700 hrs)**

**Mrs. Sarada Ajith**

**President, Indian Ladies Association**

**Distinguished Representatives of Government of Bahrain;**

**Excellencies, Heads of Missions and Members of Diplomatic Corps;**

**Members of Bahraini & Indian business community;**

**Representatives of various Indian Associations;**

**Executive committee and Members of Indian Ladies Association;**

Good evening!

My wife Monika, the patron of Indian Ladies Association joins me in congratulating the Indian Ladies Association (ILA) on relocating to the new and spacious premises. It gives me immense pleasure to be a part of this gathering today on this memorable occasion.

2. After 37 long years, ILA has now moved into this new location, which will provide more space for all its activities, especially, to run the Sneha Recreation Centre, which is the flagship project of ILA. I congratulate the Patron, President, Executive Committees and members of ILA, including the past ones, who have tirelessly worked in making this dream into reality.

3. The Indian Ladies Association, the oldest expatriate women's association, has been in the forefront of community outreach programmes and other socio-cultural activities. ILA has organized diverse events even during the pandemic. The notable events included the Iconic Faces of India, a virtual program, wherein the ladies portrayed as inspiring and powerful women of India, Ramadan Ghabga, Dandiya event, Anand Bazaar, Eid Milan, Speak Easy English classes and Soap making workshop for low income group workers. A scientific lecture by Dr. Tessy Thomas,

the missile woman of India, organized in association with the Embassy, as part of Leela Jashanmal lecture shows the diversity of the programmes organized by ILA.

4. Besides organizing quality programmes, ILA has dedicated selfless volunteers who manage the affairs of Sneha Recreation Centre and strive hard to acquire functional literacy and daily living skills to the specially abled children. Sneha Centre is aimed at providing a safe haven for children with special needs and I am happy that the new premises fulfils the requirement. Sneha is always close to our heart.

5. We have ensured that Sneha children always form a part of our community and involve them in the activities at the Embassy as well. The Ayurveda Garden at the Embassy, which we inaugurated along with Sneha kids on Republic Day in 2022, always reminds us of our affection to these kids. The children celebrated the Childrens Day in the Embassy and spent time with us with art and craft activities.

6. I am confident that this new premises will enable better outreach of ILA in serving the community with more vigour and enthusiasm.

7. The Leadership and the Government of Bahrain have whole-heartedly supported the diversity and country's culture of peaceful existence. I thank them for providing constant support and care to the Indian community and its organizations including Indian Ladies Association.

8. Let me conclude by wishing the Executive committee and members of the Indian Ladies Association all the very best in their future endeavours.

Thank you.