

## **Festival of India in Madagascar 2015**

The following events as part of Festival of India in Madagascar were held:-

### **Mehendi Art in Antananarivo**

A Mehendi Art event was organised in the Embassy as well as at Ambassador's Residence on October 8, 2015. Mrs Shakuntla Sharma applied Mehendi to the visa applicants and other members of Indian community in the Embassy and to the spouses of Diplomatic community, prominent members of the Indian diaspora at Ambassador's Residence. She also displayed her Mehendi art skills at the venues of Bhangra dance in Antananarivo on 9 October and in Tamatave on 11 and 12 October. Through this she could popularize the Mehendi Art work among the local population in two major cities of Madagascar.

### **Bhangra Dance in Antananarivo:**

The 12-member Bhangra dance troupe performed on 9 October at Espace Salohy, in Antananarivo. The event was attended by over 700 persons. The chief guest for the event was Mme Ramanantenasoa Noeline, Minister of Justice Government of Madagascar. The audience comprised of senior bureaucrats from the Malagasy government, members of diplomatic community, local Malagasies and prominent members of Persons of Indian origin. The Bhangra dance troupe thereafter proceeded to Tamatave, main port city of Madagascar and gave two performances, the first one was on October 11, 2015 at Espace Miou Miou before a packed audience comprising of Malagasies, Indians and other nationalities. The second one was an outdoor performance, held on October 12, 2015 in front of Mayor's Office. The event was attended, among others, by Mr Ratsiraka Larovana Roland, Minister of Public Works, Perfect, Chief of the Region of the Government of Madagascar, and other high ranking dignities.

### **Food Festival of India:**

The Festival of India in Madagascar was opened at hotel Ibis in Antananarivo, Madagascar on 9 November. Around 300 invitees including high ranking officials in the local Govt, members of the Diplomatic Corps, members of the India Diaspora and persons of Malagasy and other nationalities attended the opening ceremony. The festival is being organised by the Embassy of India in Antananarivo with support of Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Tourism & Indian Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC). The Festival will continue till 15 November, 2015.