Embassy of India
Berne

India-Switzerland Bilateral relations

- India and Switzerland have had cordial and friendly relations since India's Independence, based on shared values of democracy and rule of law. India's policy of non-alignment and Switzerland's traditional policy of neutrality led to a close understanding between the two countries.

- Diplomatic relations with Switzerland were established with the signing of the Treaty of Friendship at New Delhi on 14 August, 1948; one of the first such treaties to be signed by independent India.

- Bilateral ties achieved new heights following the visits to Switzerland of Rashtrapati ji in September 2019, PM Shri Narendra Modi in 2016 & 2018 and that of the Swiss President Mrs. Doris Leuthard to India in 2017. The Joint Statement issued during the visit of the Swiss President in 2017 described the India-Switzerland ties as 'a long standing dynamic partnership'.

- Apart from its Embassy in New Delhi, Switzerland presently has Consulate Generals in Bengaluru and Mumbai; and Honorary Consuls in Kolkata and Chennai. There is a Swiss Business Hub in Mumbai, and a Swissnex office in Bengaluru. India has an Embassy in Berne and a Consulate General in Geneva.

2. VVIP visits

- **Swiss Dignitary to India:**
  - President Mrs. Doris Leuthard – 30 August-2 September, 2017
  - President Mrs. Micheline Calmy Rey – 5-7 November, 2007
  - President Mr. Pascal Couchepin – 6-12 November, 2003
  - President Mr. Flavio Cotti - 1998 [first ever visit by a Swiss President to India]

- **Indian dignitary to Switzerland:**
  - President Shri Ram Nath Kovind -11-15 September, 2019
  - Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi - January 2018 (For WEF)
  - Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi - 5-6 June, 2016
  - President Mrs. Pratibha Devisingh Patil - 30 September to 4 October 2011
  - President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam –May 2005
  - Prime Minister H. D. Deve Gowda - January1997(For WEF)
  - President Shri V.V. Giri – 1975

- PM Shri Narendra Modi paid an official visit (stopover visit) to Geneva In 2016. This was a historic visit; the first bilateral visit by an Indian PM to Switzerland since 1997. PM's engagements included meeting with Swiss

President Mr. Johann N. Schneider-Ammann; a Business Round Table with Switzerland's top companies; and a meeting with Indian research scholars based at CERN.

➢ The year 2018 was designated "India's year" at Davos with PM Shri Narendra Modi delivering a key-note address at the WEF opening session. On bilateral front, PM met Swiss President Mr. Alain Berset and discussed cooperation in the areas, such as India-EFTA TEPA, Tax information, renewable energy, BIT, Ayurveda etc.

➢ PM Shri Narendra Modi held a bilateral meeting with Swiss President Mr. Alain Berset on 1 December 2023, on the sidelines of COP-28 in Dubai. The two leaders discussed ways to further deepen their partnership, including cooperation in trade and investment, technology, health, education, IT, tourism and people to people ties.

Other recent high-level visits

Incoming:

➢ State Secretary for foreign affairs, Mr. Alexander Fasel visited New Delhi to lead the Swiss delegation for 13th round of India-Switzerland FoC. [13 February 2025]

➢ State Secretary for Economic Affairs, Ms. Helen Budliger Artieda visited New Delhi to attend the inauguration of EFTA Desk and had bilateral meetings with CIM, Shri Piyush Goyal and Finance Minister, Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman [10 February 2025]

➢ Federal Councillor for Economic Affairs, Education and Research, Mr. Guy Parmelin [10 March 2024 for signing India-EFTA TEPA]

➢ Foreign Minister Dr. Ignazio Cassis [5 February 2024];

➢ First official visit by a five-member Foreign Affairs Committee delegation from Swiss Council of States to Mumbai and New Delhi from 27 November-1 December 2023.

➢ Federal Councillor for Economic Affairs, Education and Research, Mr. Guy Parmelin [03-04 October 2022] and [19-20 January 2024 for TEPA FTA negotiations]

➢ Federal Councillor for Finance Mr. Ueli Maurer [10 August 2022]

➢ Swiss Vice President and Federal Councillor for Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications Ms. Simonetta Sommaruga paid a working visit to India from 18-21 October, 2019 and held meetings with MOS (IC) for Power, New and Renewable Energy; Minister for Railways and, for Commerce and Industry; and Minister for Housing & Urban Affairs (I/C), Civil Aviation (I/C).

- Federal Councillor Mrs. Simonetta Sommaruga, [18-21 October, 2019];

- Mr. Nik Gugger, MP [7-15 November 2018];

- Foreign Minister Dr. Ignazio Cassis [10 August 2018];

- MP Mr. Nik Gugger and Mayor Jean-Philippe Pinto [1st PIO Parliamentarian Conference [9 January 2018 in New Delhi];

- Federal Councillor Mrs. Simonetta Sommaruga, [5-7 October, 2016];

- Federal Councillor for Economic Affairs, Education and Research Mr. Johann N. Schneider-Ammann, [15-17 May, 2015];

- Foreign Minister Mr. Didier Burkhalter [11-12 November 2013];

- Federal Councillor for Environment, Transport, Energy & Communications Mrs. Doris Leuthard, [18-20 October 2012];

- Federal Councillor for Home Mr. Alain Berset [1-3 October 2012];

- Foreign Minister Ms. Micheline Anne-Marie Calmy-Rey [August 2010];

Outgoing:

- Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal paid a two-day official visit to Berne, Switzerland on 09-10 June 2025. He engaged with Swiss industry leaders at Swissmem Industry Day, (where he was the guest of honour), highlighting the huge opportunities in India and encouraged investment in India. He also met his counterpart Swiss Federal Councillor for Economic Affairs Mr. Guy Parmelin during the visit. He co-chaired a India-Swiss Business round-table along with Federal Councillor Parmelin.

- The official Indian delegation for World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting in Davos from 20-24 January, 2025 was led by Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw (Minister of Railways, MeitY and Information & Broadcasting) and included Union Ministers of Civil Aviation, Food Processing Industries, Jal Shakti and MoS for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. In addition, Chief Ministers from Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra, and Ministers from Kerala and Tamil Nadu also participated. This was the largest-ever Indian delegation to WEF.

- MoS (I/C) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Sh. Jayant Chaudhary had a bilateral meeting with Swiss Federal Councillor of Economic Affairs, Mr. Guy Parmelin and Ms. Martina Hirayama, State Secretary for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) on the sidelines of WEF 2025.[21 January 2025]

- EAM met Federal Councillor Ignazio Cassis on 25 September 2024 on the sidelines of UNGA in New York.

- Visit of Minister of External Affairs Dr. S. Jaishankar to Geneva [11-14 September, 2024]. He had delegation-level talks with Swiss Federal Councillor of Foreign Affairs Mr. Ignazio Cassis.

- Visit of Minister of Commerce and Industry Sh. Piyush Goyal to Zurich [14-15 July 2024]. He had delegation-level talks with Swiss Federal Councillor of Economic Affairs Mr. Guy Parmelin.

- Indian delegation in World Economic Forum (WEF) meeting in Davos from 15-19 January, 2024 included three Union cabinet ministers. In addition Chief Ministers from Telangana and Maharashtra also participated. RBI Governor, Secretary General of NHRC and Chairman of Finance Commission along with the captains of Indian industry attended various WEF meetings.

- Indian participation in World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos from16-20 January, 2023 included four Union cabinet ministers.

- MoS for External Affairs and Culture Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi [28-30 September 2021];

- For WEF 2020, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Railways Shri Piyush Goyal; Minister of State for Shipping and Chemicals & Fertilizers Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya PM's Sherpa for G20 Shri Suresh Prabhu, Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh Shri Kamal Nath]; Chief Minister, Karnataka Shri B.S. Yedurappa; Minister of Finance and Planning, Punjab Shri Manpreet Singh Badal; Minister of IT, Telangana Shri K.T. Rama Rao;

- Minister for Health and Social Justice, Government of Kerala Mrs. K.K. Shailaja Teacher [26 November 2019; Berne];

- Chief Minister of Kerala Shri Pinarayi Vijayan (12-15 May 2019);

- MoS for External Affairs General (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.) [26 November 2018; Berne];

- Minister of Health and Family Welfare Shri J.P. Nadda [19 May 2018];

- Parliamentary Delegation from Maharashtra [separate visits in February and April 2018];

- Minister of State (I/C) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy [June 2016];

- EAM Shri Salman Khurshid [22 January 2014];

- Minister of State (IC) for Sports & Youth Affairs Shri Jitender Singh [14-15 May 2013];

- CIM Shri Anand Sharma [8 April 2013];

- Lok Sabha Speaker Smt. Meira Kumar [16-19 October, 2011; 16-17 July 2010];

- an 18-member Indian Parliamentary Goodwill delegation led by Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Water Resources Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal [1-4 April 2010];

- Minister of Textiles Shri Dayanidhi Maran [25-28 October 2009];

- Minister for Road Transport & Highways Shri Kamal Nath [11-12 August, 2009].

3. Bilateral Mechanisms

- Secretary-level Foreign Office dialogue was established in 1996 with its first round taking place in 2000. The latest round was held on 13 February 2025 in New Delhi.

- Set up in 1959 to strengthen economic and commercial ties, the 18th session of the Joint Economic Commission was held virtually on 9 September 2021. The latest round was held in Geneva on 24 November 2023.

- First meeting of the Joint Committee on S&T was held in 2011 in Berne. The latest [6th] Meeting was held in October 2022 in New Delhi.

- First round of the composite dialogue on Consular and Legal matters was held in New Delhi in 2012. The last round took place in Berne in September 2023.

- First round of Financial Dialogue was held in Berne on 6 July 2012. The latest 6th round of Financial Dialogue was convened in March 2024.

- First JWG Meeting on Rail Cooperation was held in 2019 at New Delhi. Second meeting was held in Berne in August 2022.

- First meeting was of JWG on Climate Change and environment was held through video conferencing in September 2021.

4. Bilateral MOUs and agreements

Year of Signing	Description of MoU/Agreement
1948	Treaty of Friendship signed at New Delhi on 14 Aug 1948 [came into force w.e.f. 05 May 1949]

1949	Interim Agreement on airlines between Switzerland and India (final Agreement in 2001)
1960	Agreement concerning the opening of transfer credits (with Implementing Protocol and Exchange of Letters)
1966	Agreement for the duty-free entry of relief supplies and packages
	Agreement on Technical and Scientific Co-operation
1989	Exchange of letters on mutual assistance in criminal matters
1991	Agreement on the granting of a Mixed Financing
1994	Agreement for the avoidance of double taxation w.r.t. taxes on income, signed in 1994, and amended by the supplementary protocols signed in 2000 and 2010.
1997	Agreement for the Promotion and Protection of Investment
1999	Agreement on Collaboration in Biotechnology
2002	Letter of Agreement between the SECO and UNIDO concerning the project - Cleaner Technology Promotion in India
2003	Agreement on cooperation in the field of Science and Technology
	Agreement on Cooperation in the event of Disasters
2005	Grant Agreement between the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs and the International Competence Center for Organic Agriculture in India (ICCOA) on the Project "Indian Organic Market Development Project”
2007	MoU on intellectual property
2009	Agreement on Social Security
2011	MoU on Mutual Cooperation in Local Governance
	MoU for cooperation in Energy Efficiency
	MoU on Financial Dialogue
	MOU establishing the 'Rabindranath Tagore Chair in Indian Studies”. Swiss side had terminated the agreement in April 2023.
2012	MoU signed between the Indian Council of Social Science Research and the University of Lausanne for institutional cooperation and social sciences and humanities projects under the ISJRP
2016	MOU on Cooperation in the fields of Skill Development as well as Vocational and Professional Education and Training (lapsed)
	Arrangement on Authorization for Dependent Person of Diplomatic, Consular, Technical and Administrative Staff of Diplomatic and Consular Mission to perform gainful employment
	Technical arrangement on the Identification and Return of Swiss and Indian Nationals [renewed in 2022]
	Agreement on Mutual Visa Exemption for Holders of Diplomatic Passport
	Joint Declaration on the introduction of the Automatic Exchange of Information on Tax matters
2017	MOU signed between Konkan Railways Corporation Ltd., India and

	Versuchs Stollen Hagerback AG
	MoU between Konkan Railway Cooperation Ltd. (KRCL) and Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH Zurich) in the field of tunneling and underground structures
	MoU on Technical Cooperation in Railway Safety & Technology
	Agreement pursuant to Article 28 paragraph 6 of the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters
2019	MoU on Technical Cooperation in the field of Climate Change and Environment
	Letter of Intent for further strengthening the India-Switzerland relations for the future in the form of an India-Switzerland Science and Innovation Alliance
2020	Protocol amending the Agreement relating to Air Services
2024	India- EFTA TEPA (Free Trade Agreement)
	Renewed MoU on Technical Cooperation in Railway Sector.

5. Trade and economic ties

- Commercial contacts between India and Switzerland date back to the early 19th century when in 1851 the Volkart Trading Co. established its offices in Basel and Mumbai. During the First World war, Switzerland set up its consulates in key locations around the world, including in Mumbai, to secure food and economic prospects.

- The Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai set up, based on 1949 agreement signed between the GoI and the Swiss Cars and Elevators Manufacturing Ltd. Zurich, expanded its India network, diversifying its activities, and soon becoming the backbone of Switzerland's economic presence in India.

6. Bilateral trade

- Switzerland has remained an important trading partner of India, though the trade balance has been in its favour. With a total trade of USD 26.84 billion, Switzerland was India's 20th largest trading partner in 2024. While our exports have remained consistent in the past five years, our imports have fluctuated since a substantial part of it is in gold bullion.

- The major items of Indian exports to Switzerland are organic chemicals; precious stones and jewelry, metals; textiles; electrical machinery and equipment; pharmaceuticals, agricultural products; machinery and precision instruments, leather products, shoes and shoe uppers, cotton, plastics, etc. The major items of Swiss exports to India, besides bullion, consist of chemicals & pharmaceuticals, machinery, transport equipment, precision engineering products and watches, etc.

- Besides bullion, other major items of Swiss exports to India consist of

chemicals & pharmaceuticals, machinery, transport equipment's, precision engineering products and watches, etc.

7. Swiss Investments in India

- FDIs from Switzerland to India from April 2000-December 2024 amounted to USD 10.75 billion placing it at 12th position globally.

- 330 Swiss companies are present in India with a subsidiary, joint venture or liaison or representation office, out of which 294 entered Indian market post liberalization of Indian economy in 1991. These companies have created over 1,66,000 jobs in India. 108 companies have their manufacturing facility in Switzerland. 74 out of 108 use India as export hub for other markets. 30 Swiss companies operate their R&D centre in India.

- Banking and Financial Services, Insurance, Machine, Electrical Engineering and Metals (MEM) & Precision, Construction, Information & Communications, Technology and Software and Services are the leading sectors.

- The five states of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Haryana, Delhi and Tamil Nadu account for approx 90% of Swiss investments in India. Mumbai-Pune corridor (45%) and Delhi-NCR (23%) together account for over 2/3rd of Swiss companies in India.

- Top 10 Swiss employers in India include UBS, ABB, Nestle India, TE Connectivity, Rieter India, UBS Business Solutions, Schindler India, Adecco India, Temenos India and STM Microelectronics.

- MMTC-PAMP, a joint venture between the Government of India undertaking MMTC and Swiss group PAMP, is the first domestic innovator to develop gold bars and colorization of gold coins.

8. India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement [TEPA]

- Negotiations on bilateral free trade agreement started in October 2008.After 16 years and 21 rounds of negotiations, the agreement was finally signed on 10 March, 2024. With this, Switzerland and the other EFTA States became the first European partners to conclude a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with India.

- A dedicated EFTA Desk has been established to facilitate flow of investments from EFTA countries into India. Swiss State Secretary of Economic Affairs, Ms. Helene Budliger Artieda visited India for the inauguration of EFTA Desk in New Delhi on 10-11 February 2025.

- **India and Switzerland signed a Bilateral Investment Treaty in 1997**, which came into force in 2000 with an initial duration of ten years. Later,

Pursuant to the Cabinet approval on the Model Indian BIT in 2015, it was decided to terminate the existing BITs with countries whose initial duration period is over and re-negotiate based on the revised Model BIT. Negotiations are being held to renegotiate a new BIT.

- **DTAA was signed on 21 April 1995** to avoid double taxation on the same income.

9. Science & Technology Cooperation

- The Inter-governmental agreement for S&T cooperation was signed in 2003 during the state visit of Swiss President to India. Within the framework of this agreement, the Indo-Swiss Joint Research Program (ISJRP) was initiated with Swiss Government in 2005 in-order to further advance the bilateral S&T co-operation.

- Some Indo-Swiss Joint Projects in the field of S&T include:
  - Green Electric Mobility (GEM) in India Project
  - Clean Energy Policy (CEP)
  - Remote sensing-based Information and Insurance for Crops in Emerging economies (RIICE)
  - Indo-Swiss Collaboration in Biotechnology (ISCB)
  - Indo-Swiss Programme on Building Energy Efficiency (BEEP)
  - Construction assistance in India: Improving energy efficiency in building

- During the State visit of President Shri Ram Nath Kovind to Switzerland in 2019, a Letter of Intent for further strengthening S&T cooperation under India-Switzerland Science and Innovation Alliance was signed. The Mission celebrated 2019 as the India Year of Science and Technology in Switzerland.

- India has been represented at the GESDA (Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipation Summit) generally held in the month of October every year in Geneva. The 3rd summit held in October 2023, was represented by Joint Secretary level official and whereas 4th Summit was virtually represented by Secretary level official from MEA, where Indian side shared India's experience and initiatives for inclusive development, utilizing science and technology particularly through open access digital and mobile platforms.

- A new collaborative mechanism with Switzerland in the fields of Innovation and R&D- **"India-Swiss Innovation Platform"** was launched in Bengaluru on 30 October 2023. The platform launch coincided with the first Indo-Swiss Anti-microbial Resistance (AMR) dialogue, in which about 50 experts from the two countries participated to discuss innovative approaches to address the serious but silent public health threat posed by AMR to the humanity.

- The 2nd round of India-Swiss AMR Innovation Dialogue took place from 27 April-2 May 2025, with a rich programme across Switzerland, including visits to the Universities of Zurich, Geneva, Berne and Basel, Global

Antibiotic Research and development Partnership (GARDP),Roche and the workshop at the Swiss Re Center for Global Dialogue in Ruschlikon. This provided a platform to foster collaboration between experts of India and Switzerland to discuss about the solutions for one of the world's most important challenges of the 21st century-AMR. About 92 experts from both the countries, including 25 from Indian side participated in the dialogue. The organizing team from the Indian side included researchers from National Centre for Biological Sciences(NCBS),Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Pune, together with Swissnex-India.

10. Cooperation in Railways

- An MoU was signed between our Railways Ministry and with its Swiss counterpart for technical cooperation in Rail sector on 31 August 2017 with cooperation in areas including Traction Rolling stock, EMU and Train sets, Traction Propulsion Equipments, Tilting Trains, Railway Electrification Equipment, Train scheduling and operation improvement and Tunneling technology, etc.

- A renewed MoU was signed by Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology and his Swiss counterpart Mr. Albert Rosti, Federal Councilor and Head of the Federal DETEC, on 29 October 2024 at a virtual ceremony. The MoU aims to enhance technical cooperation between the two countries for improving railway operational efficiency, safety standards, and service quality and infrastructure development.

- Swiss rail companies/entities involved in operations in India are Stadler Rail Management AG, Furrer& Frey, Huber+Suhner, ABB Ltd, SWISSRAIL and SWISSMEM.

11. Air Connectivity & Tourism

- An Air Services Agreement (ASA) was signed in May 2001. The two sides presently have open sky policy. Swiss Airlines commenced direct flight to Delhi from December 2007. The Protocol amending India-Switzerland Air Services Agreement was signed in March 2020. Swiss Air operates direct daily flights to Delhi and Mumbai under code sharing arrangement with Air India. After a gap of 27 years, Air India started operating direct flights (with frequency of four flights per week) from Zurich to Delhi beginning 16 June 2024.

Indian Tourists in Switzerland:

- Switzerland has a very good reputation in India and remains one of the top destinations for Indian travellers, whether for a honeymoon, to explore the locations of it's famous Bollywood films or for mountain and city adventures. Switzerland is the prime destination for Indian tourists. With 666'641 generated overnights in 2024, India is the 10th highest source market for Switzerland in terms of tourist arrivals.

12. Education/Skill Development

- In 2016, an MoU was signed between our Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI), on Cooperation in the fields on Skill Development as well as Vocational and Professional Education and Training. The purpose of the MoU was to support India's massive skill requirements as well as to strengthen Swiss vocational and professional education and training in international context.

13. Ayurveda & Health Cooperation

- Complementary Medicine is a part of the Swiss Federal Constitution. Ayurveda along with three other traditional systems of medicine i.e. Chinese, European and homeopathy, has been approved for federally recognized national diploma examination in Switzerland.

- During the 8th Geneva Health Forum, a session on 'Indian Traditional Medicine Systems interacting with Modern Medicine System' was held in 2020, in which Ayurevda and Unani streams of medicine were discussed. Keynote speeches during the inaugural Plenary were made by Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Minister of State for AYUSH.

- A virtual meeting on India-Switzerland Bilateral Health Cooperation took place in 2021 with the participation of Swiss Federal Office of Public Health, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (India) and Ministry of AYUSH (India).

- **International Ayurveda Symposium (12-13 October 2024, Luzern):** The first-ever Symposium held in Switzerland was supported by our Ministry of Ayush and attended by 200-strong participants included eminent Ayurveda practitioners, researchers, proponents and enthusiasts from across the globe.

14. Climate Change & Environment

- During the State visit of President Shri Ram Nath Kovind to Switzerland in 2019, an MoU on Technical Cooperation in the field of Climate Change and Environment was signed.

15. Cultural cooperation & People to People contacts

- Switzerland has always been a meeting point for East and West and the connection between Himalayas and Alps are stronger and deeper. Swami Vivekananda visited Switzerland in 1896. Switzerland also hosted another great sage of India, Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, who is the founder of Transcendental Meditation. This land also welcomed Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore in 1926 and Mahatma Gandhi in 1931.

- A 'Festival of India' in 12 cities of Switzerland and Liechtenstein was organized in 2018 under the theme 'Connecting Himalayas with Alps' which was well received.

- The celebrations of 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi provided great opportunities to promote Gandhian values.

- 'India in the Alps' - an Indian cultural festival showcasing music, dance, exhibition, cuisine, crafts, Bollywood & yoga in Switzerland was organized in 2022 at Berne, Zurich & Geneva as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations. The events were well received by diaspora as well as Swiss populace.

- To celebrate the 75th anniversary of India's independence and also of India-Switzerland diplomatic relations, photo exhibitions of great Indian personalities like Mahatma Gandhi, Rabindranath Tagore, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Swami Vivekananda were organized in various cantons across Switzerland during 2022-2023.

- Swiss Games Museum in Montreux has a unique collection of games which originated in India. While the Lugano museum has some of the rare collections of photographs of Mahatma Gandhi, the Swiss National Museum in Prangins has an exhibition of unique collection of cotton fabric from India. The Charlie Chaplin Museum at Vevey also has an India connect.

- Museum Rietberg in Zurich has one of the best collections of Indian Miniature paintings. An exhibition dedicated to "Ragamala", a jewel of Indian miniature paintings where music, poetry and painting fuse together, is being organized by Museum Rietberg from 20 September 2024 to 19 January 2025, presenting around fifty masterpieces.

- An exhibition, 'Being Jain: Art & Culture of an Indian Religion' was organized at Museum Rietberg from 18 November 2022 to 30 April 2023 showcasing Jainism in India, featuring 20 objects loaned from various Museums in India.

- The Universities of Lausanne (UNIL) offer courses on Indian Studies which covers language and literature (Hindi & Sanskrit), culture and history.

- The University of Zurich (UZH) offer courses on Indian Studies/ Indology. In addition to the introduction to Indology, the course offerings include a diverse range of modules in the core areas of language acquisition (Hindi, Sanskrit & Pali), culture and society.

- A Mahatma Gandhi Statue was installed at Ariana Park, Geneva in 2007.

- A bust of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore was unveiled at University of Lausanne in October 2011 by President Smt. Pratibha Devi Singh Patil during her visit to Switzerland.

- A bronze bust of Swami Vivekananda was installed at Saas Fee in August 2013 on the occasion of 150th Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. Saas Fee was visited by Swami Vivekananda in August 1896.

- In a major public event, President Shri Ram Nath Kovind unveiled a bronze bust of Mahatma Gandhi in September, 2019 along the banks of Lake Geneva at a picturesque location in Villeneuve where Mahatma Gandhi visited in 1931 to meet Romain Rolland.

- Yoga is very popular in Switzerland. Many private yoga studios/resorts/ retreats offer yoga classes/ sessions in almost all cantons of the country. About a quarter of a million Swiss residents are yoga practitioners and women make up the bulk of the yoga-practicing population.

- In its efforts to further the reach of Yoga in Switzerland, our Mission in Berne has been organizing Yoga sessions at various cities in Switzerland, including celebrations of International Day every year, including in the year 2025.

- Indian films are regularly shot in Switzerland. The first Indian film to be shot in Switzerland was Sangam in 1964 in the famous alpine region of Grindelwald-Jungfrau. Since then many Indian movies, including Bollywood blockbusters have been shot in the Swiss Alps.

- Bollywood filmmaker Yash Chopra who shot many movies in Interlaken region in Switzerland, was honored by the city of Interlaken with a bronze statue in a central location in Interlaken.

- Bollywood icon Sharukh Khan was honored with lifetime achievement award at the 77th Locarno Film festival in August 2024.

16. Indian Community

- There are over 29,000 Indians, including over 9,600 persons of Indian origin (mostly in Engineering, IT, pharmaceuticals and paramedical, nursing fields) staying in Switzerland. Some are deployed in the International Organizations like UN, UPU and other prestigious Swiss institutes, like Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich and EPFL, Lausanne.

- The Indian community is concentrated in Zurich, Geneva, Basel, Baden, Berne and Lausanne. 2,435 Indian students are studying in Switzerland. A number of Indian associations actively organize cultural activities and celebrate Indian Festivals and national days.

- Pravasi Bhartiya Samman Awardees in Switzerland are:
  - **Late Dr. Rajendra Joshi,** Swiss-based NRI scientist was one of the most prominent members of Indian Diaspora who passed in 2019.

- **Dr. Shachi Gurumayum,** an NRI based in Switzerland had been conferred the Award in 2021 for his contribution in the field of Bio-tech Agronomy.
- **Dr. Archana Sharma,** a particle physicist at CERN is among the prominent personalities of diaspora who is conferred the Award 2023 in S&T field.

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13 June 2025