

NewsLetter

A Quarterly News Letter of Embassy of India, Berne

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: The World is One Family

Bilateral Visits

Swiss State Secretary in India



Swiss State Secretary and Director SECO H.E. Marie-Gabrielle Ineichen-Fleisch visited New Delhi representing Switzerland at the Informal WTO Ministerial meeting from 19-20 March 2018 hosted by Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Suresh Prabhu.

Visit of Mr. J. P. Nadda, Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India to Switzerland



Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India H.E. Mr. J. P. Nadda at a luncheon interactive meeting of CEOs and senior Representatives of Health Care companies and Institutes in Switzerland.

Visit of Dr. K. P. Krishnan, Secretary, GoI to Switzerland Entrepreneurship, GoI to Switzerland



Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dr. K. P. Krishnan accompanied by a NSDC delegation visited SFIVET, Schindler Vocational Training, and EHL Lausanne on 3-6 July.

Interaction with Governments

India and Switzerland



Ambassador Sibi George with H.E. Mr. Guy Parmelin, Federal Councillor and Head of Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sports (Defence Minister of Switzerland) in Berne.

India and Vatican



Ambassador Sibi George with His Eminence Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi, President of the Pontifical Council for Culture of The Holy See at Vatican. 2018 marks the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and The Holy See.

India and the Principality of Liechtenstein



Ambassador Sibi George with HE Mr. Adrian Hasler, Hon'ble Prime Minister of the Principality of Liechtenstein on June 12 in Vaduz.

Engagement with Swiss Cantons

President of Ticino



Ambassador Sibi George with HE Mr. Claudio Zali, President of Swiss Canton of Ticino (Governor of the province of Ticino) at Bellinzona.

Mayor of Interlaken



Ambassador Sibi George with Mr Urs Graf, Mayor of the touristic city of Interlaken in Switzerland.

Mayor of Berne



Ambassador Sibi George with Mr. Alec von Graffenried, Mayor of the City of Bern on April 12, 2018 in Bern.

Members of the City Council, Interlaken



Ambassador accompanied by First Secretary Dr Piyush Singh and members of the City Council of Interlaken visited various sites in Interlaken being frequented by thousands of tourists from India every year.

Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Senior Officials Meeting (SOM)



Ambassador Sibi George speaking at the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) Retreat that Switzerland hosted at Zurich.

Luncheon Meeting



Ambassadors of Asia Pacific countries in Bern at a luncheon meeting that Ambassador Sibi George hosted at India House.

Engagement with Universities



Ambassador Sibi George and First Secretary Dr. Piyush Singh visited University of Lausanne on April 16, 2018 which hosts the Indian Council for Cultural Relations' Rabindranath Tagore Chair of Indian Studies inaugurated in 2011. Interactions were held with Rector of the University Prof. Nouria Hernandez; Prof. Alain Boilla, Dean of the Faculty of Arts; Prof. Maya Burger, Department of Slavic and South Asian Languages and Cultures; and Prof. Rahul Siddharth who presently holds the Tagore Chair.



Ambassador Sibi George with Prof. Dr. Michael Hengartner, President, Zurich University and the University team at Zurich.

Indian Professional Network Events

Wine Tasting Event



Embassy of India, Bern hosted Indian Wine Tasting event on June 1 at India House. Wine Tasting was

conducted by Director, Fratelli Wines Mr. Alessio Secci with a presentation followed by Wine Tasting with matching Indian food.

Trade and Investment Indian Diaspora in Switzerland



On the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Friendship between India and Switzerland, Embassy of India to Switzerland, Bern and the

Embassy of Switzerland to India, New Delhi, in co-operation with Swiss India Chamber of Commerce and Swissnex India, hosted an Event on 'Indian Diaspora in Switzerland', in Bern on April 6, 2018. Ambassador of India, Sibi George and Ambassador of Switzerland, Dr. Andreas Baum spoke on the occasion. There was a panel discussion on the topic, 'Fertile Ground for Innovation : The Indian Diaspora in Switzerland' by Ms Chethana J. Gadiyar, Laboratory of Nanochemistry for Energy, EPFL; Mr Jahangir Doongaji, member of the Executive Board Hilti; Mr Anil Sethi, Entrepreneur in Residence, ETH Zurich and Mr Thakur Subhash Sinha, Universal Postal Union, moderated by First Secretary, Embassy of India, Dr. Piyush Singh. Contributions of Indian Diaspora to the Economy, Research and Innovation Sectors of Switzerland were discussed.

Momentum in India: Swiss SMEs Programme



A Workshop and Networking meet of 'Momentum In India: Swiss SMEs Programme', a joint initiative of Embassy of India, Bern and the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Government of India, was held on 17 May 2018 at the FIFA Museum hall in Zurich. The interactive event opened by Ambassador Sibi George was attended by senior representatives of over 60 Swiss companies. On the sidelines of the event, an India kiosk was also set up.

India Switzerland Cooperation in Vocational Training



Embassy of India: Indian Professionals Network organized a seminar on 'India Switzerland Cooperation in Vocational Training' at Bellevue Palace Hotel Bern, Switzerland. Markus Gmeiner, CEO of Joshi Foundation Switzerland made a presentation at the event.

Ayurveda in Switzerland



Embassy of India - Indian Professionals Network held a meeting on the theme 'Ayurveda in Switzerland' in Berne on April 13. Renowned Ayurveda physician Dr. G. Geetha Krishnan, MD (Ayurveda), delivered a talk on the principles and practice of Ayurveda, including its integration with Allopathic medicine and surgery. The meeting was attended by Switzerland-based Ayurveda practitioners and experts, who discussed an Action Plan for generating Ayurveda awareness in Switzerland.

Cultural Events and other Engagements

MUBA Exhibition 2018 at Basel, Switzerland



Embassy of India, Berne participated in MUBA Exhibition 2018 at Basel, Switzerland from 20-29 April 2018. A number of firms from India also participated.

Interaction with Private Sector Novartis Headquarters



Ambassador Sibi George and First Secretary Dr. Piyush Singh at Novartis Headquarters in Basel with CEO Mr. Vas Narasimhan. Also present are Mr. Philippe Barrois, Head of Corporate Affairs, Ms. Couzette Kleynhans, Head of International Public Affairs and Ms. Nina Maehltz, Manager Strategic Country Support of Novartis.

Amman Group Headquarters



Ambassador Sibi George with Mr Hans- Christian Schneider, CEO of Ammann Group at Ammann Group Headquarters in Langenthal. Also pictured are First Secretary Dr Piyush Singh and Senior Vice President Ammann Group and Board Member Ammann India Mr Rolf Jenny.

Schindler Group



Ambassador Sibi George, accompanied by First Secretary Dr. Piyush Singh visited Schindler Group of Companies in Luzern on April 5, 2018 and met Mr. Thomas Oetterli, CEO, Mr. Deepak Khandpur, Senior Vice President and Head Corporate Strategic Projects, and Dr. Paul Friedli, the father of PORT technology. Ambassador George also visited the vocational training centre of the Schindler Group.

EMPA and Filsom



Niederhasli.

Ambassador Sibi George at EMPA – Swiss Federal Laboratory for Material Science and Technology, with Prof. Dr. Gian Luca Bona, CEO of EMPA and Prof Ayodhyanath Tiwari, Head, Laboratory for Thin Films and Photovoltaics of EMPA at Dübendorf. Ambassador also visited Flisom at

President of Swissmem and Vice President of Economicsuisse



Ambassador Sibi George with Mr. Hans Hess, President of Swissmem and Vice President of Economiesuisse on April 30, 2018 at Zurich. Swissmem is the leading Association for SMEs and large companies in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Industries and related technology-oriented sectors.

India MICE Road Show



Ambassador Sibi George making opening remarks at the India MICE Roadshow jointly organised by Ministry of Tourism and India Convention Promotion Bureau on 28 June in Geneva.

Visit to Lugano Museum



Ambassador Sibi George with Mr Paolo Campione, Director, Museo delle Culture (Museum of Cultures) at Lugano. The Museum houses photographs of Mahatma Gandhi taken by renowned Swiss photographer Mr Walter Bosshard in 1930s.

Maharajas Gala in Landwehr

Luzerner Zeitung Newspaper, Lucerne



Ambassador Sibi George and First Secretary, Dr Piyush Singh with Mr. Jerome Martini, Editor-in-Chief of Luzerner Zeitung Newspaper, in Lucerne.



Ambassador Sibi George addressed 'Maharajas Gala in La Landwehr' organized by La Landwehr, official music of the Canton of



Fribourg, which has a continuous history of over 200 years. Ambassador and his family is pictured with Mr Alain Deschenaux, President of La Landwehr. La Landwehr music band will visit India in October 2018.

Chintz-A Fabric which Revolutionized the World



Ambassador Sibi George spoke at the opening of the Exhibition "Chintz; A Fabric which Revolutionized the World" at The Swiss National Museum in Prangins on April 21, 2018. The exhibition included a unique collection of

Chintz fabric exported to Europe from India. Ambassador spoke about the vibrant cotton and textile industry in India.

International Day 2018



Enthusiastic response for India Stall and Yoga Counter set up by Embassy of India Spouses Association at the International School of Berne in Switzerland on June 23 during the International Day 2018.

Engagement with Director, Pro-Helvetia Foundation



Ambassador Sibi George with Mr. Phillippe Bischof, Director, [Pro Helvetia](#) Foundation, the Institute for Promotion of Culture of the Swiss

Confederation, in Zurich on April 9, 2018.

Indian Cultural Network Book Reading Event



Book Reading by Indian Cultural Network of Embassy of India at Hotel Bellevue in Berne on May 18, 2018. Two young dynamic Indian authors Ms. Aradhna Sethi and Ms. Brindarica Bose read from their books 'The Entrepreneurs' Wife: A Survival Guide' and 'Swiss Masala' respectively. The book reading was followed by an interactive session about the life and experiences of Indian authors and spouses in Switzerland.

Engagement with Indian Associations Art Festival by Keli International



Ambassador Sibi George at the Keli Kalamela, a festival of Art organized in Zurich by Keli International, an Indo-Swiss Socio Cultural Organisation in Switzerland.

4th International Day of Yoga and Ayurveda Festival AYUSH Information Cell

Coordination Session on IDY, 2018



Embassy of India organised a coordination session to celebrate International Day of Yoga 2018 in Switzerland and Liechtenstein with participation from different Yoga practitioners and Indian Associations, on April 7, 2018. The meeting discussed different aspects of IDY celebrations in various cities of Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

IDY Event at Neuchatel



Yoga Celebration & Ayurveda Festival in Neuchatel on June 16.

IDY Event at Vaduz



International Day of Yoga celebrations in the laps of Alps in the Principality of Liechtenstein on June 17. Yoga connects mighty Himalayas with picturesque Alps.

Promotion Event for IDY, 2018



Embassy of India, Berne, organised an event focusing on Ayurveda, International Day of Yoga, and India Tourism at Museum Rietberg in Zurich on May 6.



IDY Event at Rietberg Museum



International Day of Yoga celebrations at Museum Rietberg in Zurich on June 16.

IDY Event at Bad Ragaz



International Day of Yoga celebrations on June 17 at picturesque Swiss Alps city of Bad Ragaz, hosting Europe's largest sculpture exhibition.

IDY Event at Laussane



International Day of Yoga celebrations at Lausanne on June 21.

IDY Event at Flaach



International Day of Yoga celebrations at Mata Amritanandmayi (Amma) Center, Flaach on June 21.

IDY Event at River Rhine, Basel



International Day of Yoga celebrations on banks of River Rhine in Swiss city of Basel on June 21.

IDY Event in Davos



International Yoga Day celebrations on June 24 at Davos in the Alps.

Festival and Philately Exhibition at UPU Headquarters, Berne



IDY Grand Finale Event alongwith Ayurveda Festival and Philately Exhibition at UPU Headquarters, Berne on June 24.

Other Events

Thematic Library



A Thematic Library has been opened at the Embassy of India in Switzerland for the use of visitors to the Embassy. The Library will display books on a particular theme every week. A brief Quiz will also be conducted on the theme every week. All visitors to the Embassy are encouraged to make use of the Thematic Library and participate in the Quiz the theme every week.

Bidding Farewell



Team Embassy of India in Switzerland led by Ambassador Sibi George bids farewell to Mr. Jaswant Singh, Assistant (Accounts) on his superannuation from the Embassy after a dedicated service of over thirty years.

Team Embassy of India in Switzerland led by Ambassador Sibi George bids farewell to Mr. Jaswant Singh, Assistant (Accounts) on his

World Environment Day



Embassy of India to Switzerland, the Holy See and Liechtenstein celebrated World Environment Day on June 5 with planting of fruit trees including by Children, at India House gardens in Berne. They also painted a

symbolic tree of joint celebrations.

Anti-Terrorism Day



Anti-Terrorism Day was observed at Embassy of India, Berne on May 21, with the administration of pledge by Ambassador Sibi George to all Mission members.



परदेस में आपका दोस्त: भारतीय दूतावास
Indian Embassy: Home away from Home

Message from Ambassador



Dear Friends,

I am pleased to send you the 2nd edition of the Newsletter of the Embassy. It will enable us to establish a continuous channel of communication in every corner of Switzerland, the Holy See and the Principality of Liechtenstein.

This year is especially significant as we are celebrating 70th anniversary of the signing of the India-Switzerland Treaty of Friendship, 70 years of establishment of diplomatic relations with the Holy See and 25 years of establishment of diplomatic relations with Liechtenstein.

I want to emphasise that this Embassy is a Home away from Home for all Indian diaspora in Switzerland, the Holy See and Liechtenstein. I would also be happy to receive your feedbacks and suggestions at amb.berne@mea.gov.in I would also request you to visit our website and Facebook page.

Sibi George

