

NewsLetter

A Quarterly Newsletter of Embassy of India, Berne

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: The World is One Family

Republic Day Celebrations in Switzerland



On January 26, 2019, celebrations to mark the 70th Republic Day of India took place at India House, Bern. Ambassador Sibi George hoisted the Tricolour in the presence of a large number of Indian Diaspora & read out the message of Hon'ble President of India.

Engagement with Switzerland



Bern on Jan 16, 2019.

Ambassador Sibi George with the President of Swiss Confederation H.E. Mr Ueli Maurer at the traditional New Year reception at the Federal Palace in

Engagement with The Holy See



Ambassador Sibi George with His Holiness Pope Francis and Secretary of State of The Holy See, His Eminence Cardinal Pietro Parolin at the traditional New Year's Greetings ceremony for Ambassadors accredited to The Holy See at Vatican in Rome on January 7, 2019.

Engagement with the Principality of Liechtenstein

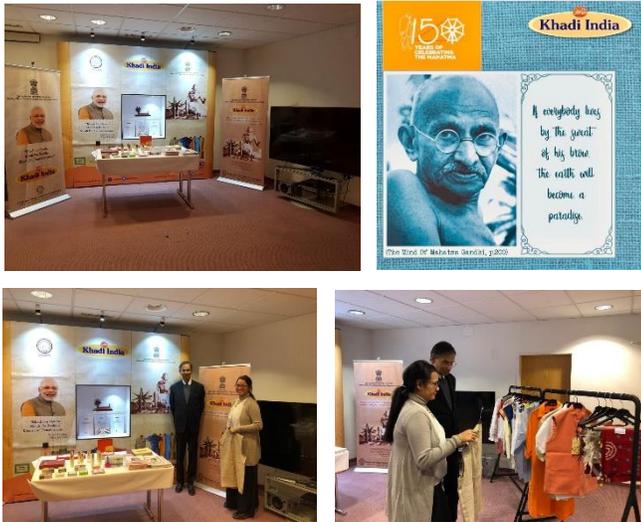


Ambassador Sibi George with His Serene Highness Prince Hans-Adam II, His Serene Highness Hereditary Prince Alois and Her

Royal Highness Hereditary Princess Sophie at the traditional New Year's reception at Vaduz Castle in Lichtenstein on January 10, 2019.

Events to mark the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi

Khadi Exhibition in Davos 2019



Khadi Exhibition was setup in Davos during WEF Annual Meeting from January 20-25, 2019. Chairman of Swiss-Indian Chamber of Commerce Mr. Philippe Reich & Mrs. Reich visited Khadi Exhibition at the India Lounge in Davos, amongst other visitors.

Remembering Mahatma Gandhi



Ambassador Sibi George felicitating children who read excerpts from 'THE STORY OF MY EXPERIMENTS WITH TRUTH' an autobiography by Mahatma Gandhi. They also conducted a quiz program in Berne, on January 28, 2019 on the life of Mahatma Gandhi.

Mahatma as an Attorney



Ambassador Sibi George felicitating Ms. Smriti Ahluwalia & Mr. Anand Pazhenkottil, Attorneys in Switzerland, who spoke on 'Mahatma through the eyes of an Attorney' at an event that Embassy of India in Switzerland organized at Bern on January 28, 2019.

Philatelic Exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi in Switzerland



Overwhelming response to the philatelic exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi unveiled at Universal Postal Union headquarters in Berne, Switzerland on January 30, 2019.

Winners of Quiz on The Life of Mahatma Gandhi



January 28, 2019.

Ambassador Sibi George with the winners of the Quiz on the life of Mahatma Gandhi held in Berne on

Homage to Mahatma Gandhi



Ambassadors, Diplomats & other participants observing silence to pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi on Martyrs Day on January 30, 2019 at an event jointly organized by Embassy of India to Switzerland and Universal Postal Union at UPU Headquarters in Berne.

Vaishnav Jan To Bhajan



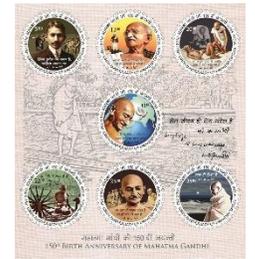
Congratulations to Kim Romeo Lai & team who sang 'Vaishnav Jan To', favourite Bhajan of Mahatma Gandhi in the snow covered Alps mountains of Liechtenstein.

Vaishnav Jan to in Liechtenstein



Ambassador Sibi George handing over the letter of appreciation from Hon'ble EAM Sushma Swaraj to Kim Romeo Lai who sang Vaishnav Jan To, the favourite Bhajan of Mahatma Gandhi in the snow covered Alps mountains of Liechtenstein.

Philately Exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi in Bern



Glimpses of philately exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi held at Hotel Bellevue Palace in Bern on February 28, 2019.

Celebrating Mahatma Gandhi in Switzerland



Speeches, Quiz, Reading from the Autobiography of Mahatma Gandhi and a Khadi Exhibition were among the highlights of 'Remembering Mahatma Gandhi in Switzerland' event held in Berne on February 28, 2019.

Gandhi Exhibitions in Zurich



Glimpses of inauguration of Gandhi Philately Exhibition and Khadi Exhibition in Zurich. Exhibitions continued in Zurich from March 6-8, 2019.

Felicitation of Swiss Artists who sang 'Vaishnav Jan To' Bhajan



Ambassador Sibi George felicitated renowned Swiss artists Mr. Bruno Steffen and team who shot the video of Gujarati Bhajan 'Vaishnav Jan To' in the picturesque landscape of Swiss Alps, by presenting letter of appreciation to Mr. Bruno Steffen from Hon'ble EAM Sushma Swaraj on January 9, 2019.



Remembering Mahatma Gandhi In Montreux



Mayor of Montreux H.E. Mr. Laurent Wehrlé with Ambassador Sibi George inaugurated Philately Exhibition on Gandhiji & Khadi exhibition at Montreux on March 14, 2019. Gandhiji had visited Montreux, Switzerland in 1931 to meet Nobel Laureate Romain Rolland.

Congratulations to Winners of Gandhi Quiz



First Secretary Dr. Piyush Singh felicitating winners of Gandhi Quiz at 'Remembering Mahatma Gandhi in Switzerland' event that the Embassy of India to Switzerland organized in Bern on February 28, 2019.



Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Celebrations 2019

Singing of National Anthem



Embassy Spouse Association and Children sang National Anthem on the occasion of Pravasi Bhartiya Divas on January 9, 2019.

Pravasi Bhartiya Divas Celebrations



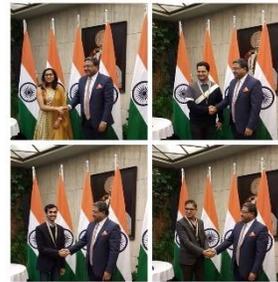
Glimpses of Pravasi Bhartiya Divas celebrations at India House in Bern on Jan 9. Ambassador Sibi George interacted with Indian Diaspora and Friends of India in Switzerland.

Young Champions of India in Switzerland



Ambassador Sibi George felicitating young champions of Indian Diaspora in Switzerland who participated in various cultural competitions that the Embassy organized in December, 2018.

Felicitations of 'Bharat ko Janiye' Quiz Winners



Ambassador Sibi George felicitating the winners from Switzerland of the 1st Round of Bharat ko Janiye Quiz during the PBD 2019 celebrations at India House in Bern on January 9, 2019.

Felicitations of the winners of Namaste Switzerland



Felicitations of the winners of Namaste Switzerland, Cultural Gala Event conducted in December 2018 by Embassy of India, Berne.

Cultural Performance

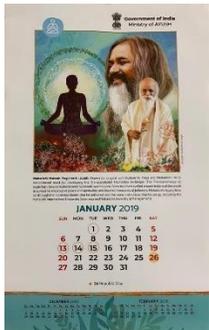


Cultural Performance by Ms. Purnima Venkatesh on Pravasi Bhartiya Divas Celebrations on January 9, 2019.



Yoga and Ayurveda

AYUSH Calendar 2019



AYUSH Calendar of 2019 starts with a tribute to Maharishi Mahesh Yogi who lived at Seelisberg in Switzerland from 1972 to 1983 and spread the message of Transcendental Meditation in Europe and beyond. Embassy of India organized the India Switzerland Ayurveda Conclave on December 1, 2018 at the Maharishi European Research University in Seelisberg. The 1st edition of Ayurveda Bulletin was also released.

India - Switzerland Ayurveda Summit in Geneva



Glimpses of 'India -Switzerland Ayurveda Summit' held at Centre Védantique of Geneva on February 16, 2019.

Ayurveda & Yoga Lounge at Davos



Ayurveda and Yoga Lounge was setup in Davos during WEF Annual Meeting from January 20-25, 2019.

Release of Ayurveda Bulletin In Geneva



Amb Sibi George and Swami Amarananda, Director of Centre Védantique of Geneva releasing the third edition of Ayurveda Bulletin on February 16, 2019 during the India-Switzerland Ayurveda Summit in Geneva organized by Embassy of India to Switzerland.

Release of Ayurveda Bulletin



Ambassador Sibi George along with Swiss Member of Parliament Nik Gugger, President of Swiss Indian Chamber of Commerce Philippe Reich & First Secretary Dr. Piyush Singh releasing the 2nd edition of Ayurveda Bulletin on January 9, 2019 in Bern.

Yoga in Geneva



Glimpses of yoga session that Embassy of India to Switzerland organized at Centre Védantique of Geneva on February 16, 2019.

India in Davos, 2019



Glimpses of Indian stalls and Lounges in Davos during WEF Annual Meeting from January 20-25, 2019. Lounges were set up by Invest India, MoPNG, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, TCS, Wipro, HCL.

Invest India Lounge



Ambassador Sibi George with Shri Ramesh Abhishek, Secretary DIPP at India Investment Centre at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland.

Engagement with Cantons

Namaste Geneva



Ambassador Sibi George with HE Mr Sami Kanaan, Mayor of the City of Geneva on February 12, 2019 at Palais Eynard Geneva. Cooperation between Geneva and Indian cities and celebrations to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi were among the topics discussed.

An Evening in Montreux and Villeneuve



Amb Sibi George with Mayor of Montreux HE Mr. Laurent Wehrli and Mayor of Villeneuve HE Ms. Corinne Ingold on March 28, 2019. Senior officials of cities of Montreux and Villeneuve and senior officials of the Embassy were present.

Engagement with Universities and Museums

National Museum of Switzerland in Zurich



Ambassador Sibi George with Dr Andreas Spillmann, Director of the National Museum of Switzerland in Zurich.

Liechtenstein National Museum





Ambassador Sibi George with Director of Lichtenstein National Museum Dr. Rainer Vollkommer at Vaduz. The Museum was showcasing a unique collection including from India.

Museum Rietberg



Ambassador Sibi George with Director Dr. Johannes Beltz at 'Next Stop Nirvana' Exhibition at Museum Rietberg in Zurich on March 15, 2019. It tells the Story of Buddhism; its beginning in India & how it spread across the world. The museum has a unique collection from Stupa in Piprahwa in Uttar Pradesh.

University of Applied Sciences (FHNW), Olten



Ambassador Sibi George at the University of Applied Sciences (FHNW) at Olten on February 11, 2019. Addressed participants of 'Focus India' program and interacted with faculty.

Engagement with Government Dignitaries

India-EFTA Cooperation



Ambassador Sibi George with HE Mr Henri Gétaz, Secretary General of European Free Trade Association (EFTA) at EFTA Headquarters in Geneva on February 12, 2019. Progress in the negotiations on India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership was among the topics discussed.

Meeting with State Secretary, SERI, Switzerland



Ambassador Sibi George called on HE Prof. Dr. Martina Hirayama, State Secretary, State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) of Switzerland on March 13, 2019. HE Ambassador Mauro Moruzzi, Head of International Relations for SERI was also present.



Interactive Luncheon Session



Ambassador Sibi George hosted an interactive luncheon session with HE Ambassador Erwin Bollinger, Head of Bilateral Economic Relations Division, SECO & Federal Council Delegate for Trade Agreements at India House in Bern on March 20, 2019.

Cultural Events

SAREE-Traditional Costume of India



Incredible India Evening in Switzerland: 'SAREE-Traditional Costume of India' show held in Berne on March 19, 2019 on the occasion of the launch of '2019 -20 India Year of Tourism in Switzerland'. The event marked Khadi Exhibition and Khadi Saree Show to commemorate 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Holi Celebrations at Embassy of India, Berne



HOLI HOLI HOLI: Team India in Switzerland and Friends of India celebrating HOLI at Embassy of India premises in Bern on March 23, 2019.

Holi Celebrations at Lausanne



Great to celebrate Holi with students of International School of Lausanne on March 21, 2019. Thanks to Director Dr. Frazer Cairns, his team, students and parents who made the celebrations a great success.

Engagement with Indian Association



Indian Cultural Evening in Zurich: Bharateeya Kalalayam, Zurich organised an Indian Cultural Event "Kalotsavam" on January 5, 2019 in Zurich. Ms. Roshni Thomson, Second Secretary, Embassy of India, Berne inaugurated the Kalotsavam.

Other Embassy Events

Solidarity with the Martyrs of Pulwama terror attacks



Indian Diaspora and Friends of India in Switzerland pay homage to the martyrs of Pulwama terrorist attack on February 14, 2019 in Jammu & Kashmir. Embassy of India Berne (February 15, 2019), Geneva (February 16, 2019), Zurich (February 23, 2019), Berne (February 28, 2019).

Ayushman Bharat - Health India Summit in Switzerland



Ayushman Bharat: Health India Summit held on January 28, 2019 in Berne, Switzerland. The Summit had a participation of 70 major companies in the healthcare sector & ten expert level presentations.

Exploring Indian Tea in Switzerland



Glimpses of Indian Tea Tasting event held at the premises of Embassy of India to Switzerland in BERNE on February 27, 2019.

Inauguration of 'Next Destination Incredible India': INDIA TOURISM SUMMIT IN SWITZERLAND



Dr. Claude Béglé, Member of Swiss Parliament and Member of Foreign Policy Commission delivered keynote address. The summit marked the launch of 'India Tourism Year 2019-20 in Switzerland'.

Kerala Tourism Roadshow in Zurich



Amazing response to a Kerala Tourism Roadshow held in Zurich on February 5, 2019. Ambassador Sibi George spoke at the Roadshow and Shri P. Bala Kiran IAS, Director Kerala Tourism made a presentation on the several epic ways to enjoy God's Own Country.

India- Switzerland Education Summit



Glimpses of 'Study in India-India Switzerland Education Summit' held on February 28, 2019 in Berne. Inaugurated by Amb Sibi George and Prof Michael Hengartner, President of University of Zürich, the event was attended by faculty and students of major Swiss Universities.

India Switzerland Education Cooperation



Prof Dominique Jolly, Chair, Walker School of Business & Technology, Webster University Geneva, speaking at the India-Switzerland Education Summit on February 28, 2019 in Berne.



Prof Matthew Hibberd, Director, Institute of Media & Communications of Università della Svizzera italiana in Lugano (University of Lugano) speaking at the India-Switzerland Education Summit on Feb 28 in Berne.



Prof. Pieter Perrett, Head of Focus India Program at University of Applied Sciences (FHNW) at Olten speaking at the India-Switzerland Education Summit on February 28, 2019 in Berne.



Prof Dr. Michael Hann, Director, World Trade Institute at University of Bern speaking at the India - Switzerland Education Summit on February 28, 2019 in Berne.

National Voters' Day Pledge in Switzerland



Ambassador Sibi George administered National Voters' Day pledge at the premises of Embassy of India, Bern to promote ethical electoral participation.

Swachhata Pakhwada In Switzerland



Ambassador Sibi George administering the

Swachhata Pledge during the Swachhata Pakhwada (January 1-15, 2019) at Embassy of India, Berne.

CURTAIN RAISER FOR 'INDIA YEAR OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN SWITZERLAND'



A curtain raiser for 'India Year of Science & Technology in Switzerland' was held on March 5, 2019 at Zurich. The Embassy celebrates 2019 as 'India Year of Science & Technology in Switzerland' to highlight India's achievements in Science & Technology and to enhance cooperation in this crucial sector.

State Presentation Series

Exploring Northeast



Glimpses of a book reading event on 'The Seven Pristine Pearls of India' held on January 31, 2019 at Hotel Bellevue Palace, Berne, Switzerland.

Kerala - God's own Country



2019.

Glimpses of presentation on Kerala by Sh. P. Bala Kiran, Director of Kerala Tourism at an event organized by Embassy of India to Switzerland in Berne on February 5,

Speech at FORAUS Neuchâtel



Ambassador Sibi George at an Interactive Session on India - Switzerland Relations at FORAUS Neuchâtel on March 6, 2019. The session focused on the economic transformation that India witnessed in recent years and India's Flagship programs.

Celebrating International Women's Day



Indian Embassy Spouses' Association celebrating International Women's Day at India House in Berne with women officers & staff members of the Embassy of India to Switzerland.

Meeting with Art of Living leadership in Switzerland



Art of Living leadership in Switzerland met with Ambassador Sibi George at Embassy of India, Bern on March 12, 2019. Board Member of Art of Living Foundation Mr.Christoph Glaser, Ms.Vanessa Eble,

Dr.Indraneel Basu & Second Secretary Rajiv Kumar are seen in the photo.

Meeting with Mata Amritanandamayi



Ambassador Sibi George with Mata Amritanandamayi during Amma's visit to Winterthur in Switzerland.

INDIA - A LAND OF BILLION IDEAS, BILLION OPPORTUNITIES



Ambassador Sibi George delivered keynote address on 'India - A land of Billion Ideas, Billion Opportunities' at the historic Grande Société De Berne. Founded in 1759 CE the Grande Société celebrates its 260th anniversary this year.

Interactive Session International School of Lausanne





Ambassador Sibi George had an interactive session with students of International School of Lausanne on India and on the message of Mahatma Gandhi on March 21, 2019. Ambassador also visited an art exhibition by students.

Representing India



Glimpses of a presentation by Ms. Roshni Thomson, Second Secretary, at Lausanne on 'How to become an Indian Diplomat: Introduction to Indian Civil Service Examination'. The event was organized on March 16, 2019 by Indian Cultural Network & Indian Association, Lausanne.

Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award



Ambassador Sibi George, on behalf of Hon'ble President of India, handed over the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award to Dr. Rajendra Kumar Joshi for his outstanding achievement in the field of Science and in recognition of his valuable contribution in promoting the honour and prestige of India.

Thematic Library Remembering Netaji



Glimpses of a quiz event on contributions of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose organized by Thematic Library of Embassy of India in Switzerland.

Role of Women in India's Journey in Science



Thematic Library presentation and quiz on 'Role of women in India's journey in Science' on February 4, 2019 at Embassy of India in Switzerland.

Thematic Library: Nightingale of India



Glimpses of Thematic Library presentation and quiz on 'Nightingale of India – Smt. Sarojini Naidu' at Embassy of India in Switzerland.

Diversity of India - Indian Languages



Glimpses of Thematic Library presentation and quiz on 'Diversity of India- Indian Languages' at Embassy of India in Switzerland on February 18, 2019.

Consular Service in Zurich



Embassy of India organized Consular Services in Zurich on January 5, 2019. Consular Services are available in Zurich on the first & third Saturday of

every month.



Embassy of India organized Consular Services in Zurich on January 19, 2019.



Embassy of India organized Consular Services in Zurich on February 2, 2019.



Embassy of India organized Consular Services in Zurich on February 16, 2019.



Embassy of India organized Consular Services in Zurich on March 2, 2019.



Embassy of India organized Consular Services in Zurich on March 16, 2019.



Message from Ambassador



Dear Friends,

It has been a year since we have been reaching out to Indians and friends of India in Switzerland, using this medium of quarterly newsletter.

Our attempt has been to highlight the various activities of the Embassy in order to keep it connected with the people of India and their aspirations. The tagline of this newsletter 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: The World is One Family' is also an omnipresent theme of Indian discourse in daily life.

I look forward to further strengthening of this bond of affection that this quarterly newsletter has enabled tie between us. Keep in touch.

Sibi George



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