

NewsLetter

A Quarterly Newsletter of Embassy of India, Berne

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: The World is One Family

Hon'ble External Affairs Minister's message on the occasion of Passport Seva Divas



Felicitation of Dr. Nik Gugger, Indian origin Member of Swiss Parliament



Amb Sibi George and Madam Joice Sibi with the family of Dr. Nik Gugger, Indian origin Member of Swiss Parliament at a reception at India House in Berne to felicitate him on receiving D Litt Honoris Causa from Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology.

Meeting with Defence Minister of Switzerland



Ambassador Sibi George called on H.E. Mme Viola Amherd, Federal Councillor and Head of Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sports (Defence Minister of Switzerland) on May 28, 2019 in Berne.

Visit of State Secretary, FDFA to India House



Honoured to receive HE Mme Pascale Baeriswyl, State Secretary, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs at India House on June 25, 2019. Reviewed the excellent India-Switzerland relationship and discussed the way forward.

Meeting with President of Canton of Zürich



Amb Sibi George with HE Ms Carmen Walker Späh at Innovation Park Zürich on May 23. Also present were First Secretary Dr. Piyush Singh, Amb Philippe Welti, Deputy Minister for Economic Affairs HE Bruno Sauter and CEO of Innovation Park Mr. René Kalt.

Solidarity with Sri Lanka



Amb Sibi George and Madam Joice Sibi with HE A.L.A. Azeez, Ambassador/PR of Sri Lanka in Switzerland at an Inter-religious service on Apr 28 in Bern in solemn memory of the victims of the Easter Sunday terror attacks in Sri Lanka.

Visit of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala Shri. Pinarayi Vijayan to Switzerland

Visit to India House in Berne



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala Shri Pinarayi Vijayan being received at India House,

Residence of Ambassador of India to Switzerland, The Holy See and The Principality of Liechtenstein, Shri Sibi George in Bern, Switzerland on May 14, 2019. He attended a presentation on India Swiss relations and also interacted with the officials of the Mission.

Hon'ble CM's visit to Parliament



Chief Minister of Kerala Shri Pinarayi Vijayan visited the Swiss Parliament and held a luncheon meeting with Swiss - India Parliamentary Friendship Group. Discussions covered the various avenues of cooperation available between Switzerland and Kerala. They also highlighted the ongoing festival of democracy in India.

Meeting with H.E. Mr. Guy Parmelin, Federal Councillor for Economic Affairs, Education and Research



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala Shri. Pinarayi Vijayan held a meeting with H.E. Mr. Guy Parmelin, Federal Councillor for Economic Affairs, Education and Research (Economy Minister of Switzerland) on May 14, 2019 at Federal Palace, Bern, Switzerland. Various avenues of cooperation and collaboration between Switzerland and Kerala in the fields of Economic partnership, industrial development, training, tourism etc. were discussed. Ambassador Sibi George, Chief Secretary Shri Tom Jose, Principal Secretary for Industries, Dr. K. Ellangovan and First Secretary, Embassy of India Dr. Piyush Singh participated in the discussions.

Visit to the Geneva Waste Management and Recycling Facility



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala Shri Pinarayi Vijayan visited the Geneva Waste Management and Recycling Facility on May 13, 2019. Ambassador of India, Mr. Sibi George, Chief Secretary of Kerala, Shri. Tom Jose and Principal Secretary for Industries of Kerala Shri. K. Ellangovan accompanied the Chief Minister. The Chief of Protocol of the State of Geneva, Mr. Jean-Luc Chopard, Adjoint Secretary General of Geneva Ms. Beatrice Stuckelberger, Director General of the Department of Environment of Geneva Mr. Daniel Chambaz and Mayor of Geneva Ms. Maria Casares also participated. The Chief Minister was given a detailed demonstration of the operation of the Waste Management Facility.

Hon'ble CM's visit to Waste Recycling Facility in Berne, Switzerland



Chief Minister of Kerala Shri Pinarayi Vijayan, visited the Waste Recycling Facility in Berne, Switzerland, on May 14, 2019 accompanied by Ambassador Sibi George, Chief Secretary Shri Tom Jose and Principal Secretary for Industries Shri. K. Ellangovan. Chief Minister participated in detailed demonstrations regarding waste management, segregation, recycling etc.

Hon'ble CM's interactive session with Swiss CEOs



Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri. Pinarayi Vijayan held an interactive session with Swiss CEOs on the Investment Opportunities in Kerala at a dinner hosted by Ambassador of India Shri. Sibi George at India House in Bern on May 14, 2019. Chief Secretary Shri. Tom Jose and Principal Secretary Industries, Shri. K. Ellangovan explained about the investment opportunities in the state. The event was attended by senior officials in the Government of Switzerland and CEOs of various Swiss firms.

Business Events

An Interactive Session with Renowned Swiss Artists



Amb Sibi George with Pro Helvetia Director Mr Philippe Bischof at a reception that Pro Helvetia hosted for renowned Swiss artists associated with India on April 4, 2019 at Zürich.

Mednat Agrobio Expo



Overwhelming response to a session on Ayurveda organized by Embassy of India at Mednat Agrobio Expo in Lausanne on April 6, 2019. Dr. Piyush Singh, First Secretary with Dr. Geetha Krishnan, Technical Officer, WHO at the session.

India - Land of Billion Opportunities



Amb Sibi George delivered Inaugural Keynote Address at the 'Doing Business with India' organized by Webster University with Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Geneva and Swiss-Indian Chamber of Commerce on April 10, 2019 in Geneva.

MISSP

India Business Information Center in Zürich



Glimpses of inauguration of India Business Information Center in Zürich by Ambassador Sibi George with Hon'ble Nik Gugger, President of Indian Swiss Parliamentary Group and Mr Philipp Reich, President of Swiss Indian Chamber of Commerce on Jun 15, 2019.

India - Swiss Business Cooperation



Amb Sibi George with President of Swiss Indian Chamber of Commerce (SICC) Mr. Philip Reich, former CEO of ABB Dr Ulrich Spiesshofer and First Secretary Dr Piyush Singh at the session following the AGM of SICC in Zürich on June 19, 2019.

MISSP Workshop on Doing Business in India



Glimpses of Workshop on 'Celebrating Festival of Democracy: Doing Business in INDIA' organized by Embassy of India in Bern with speakers from Invest India, CII, FICCI and Rodl & Partner on June 27, 2019.

Yoga and Ayurveda

5th International Day of Yoga 2019 Celebrations in Switzerland

Curtain raiser



Glimpses of Curtain raiser for 5th International Day of Yoga, 2019 held in Bern on June 3, 2019.

Celebrations in Saas Fee



Glimpses of International Day of Yoga celebrations on June 5, 2019 at the historic Swiss Alps village of Saas Fee which Swami Vivekananda visited in 1896.

Celebrations in Lugano



Glimpses of IDY 2019 celebrations at the serene landscape of Lugano in Ticino Canton of Switzerland on June 15, 2019.

Celebrations in Schilthorn Alps Summit



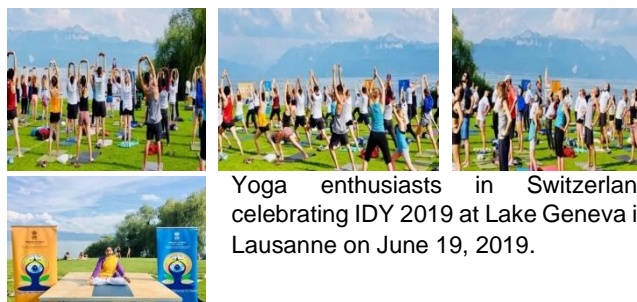
IDY 2019 celebrations at the top of snow covered Schilthorn Alps Summit (James Bond 007 Deck) in Switzerland, June 16, 2019 by Embassy of India along with Schilthorn Piz Gloria.

Celebrations in Interlaken



A yoga session in Interlaken at the celebrations to mark the 55th anniversary of the release of 'SANGAM', the first Bollywood movie shot in the serene landscape of Switzerland.

Celebrations in Lausanne



Yoga enthusiasts in Switzerland celebrating IDY 2019 at Lake Geneva in Lausanne on June 19, 2019.

Celebrations in the Principality of Liechtenstein



Images from International Day of Yoga 2019 celebrations in the laps of Alps in the Principality of Liechtenstein.

Celebrations in Basel



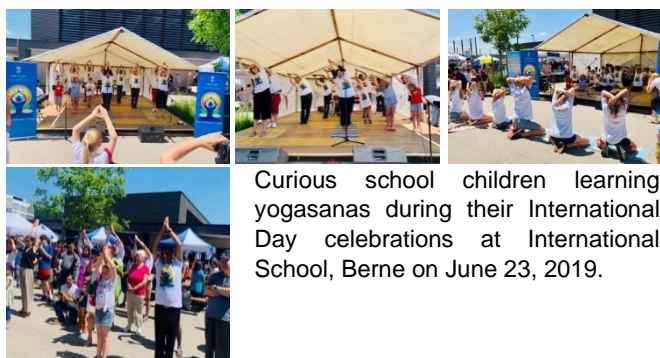
Glimpses of International Day of Yoga celebrations (IDY 2019) at Basel city in Switzerland on June 20, 2019.

Celebrations in Berne



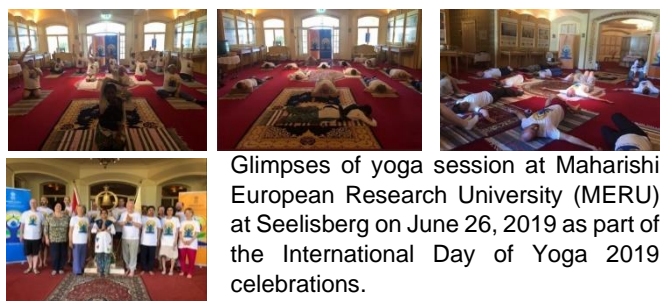
Glimpses of IDY 2019 celebrations in Berne, Switzerland on June 21, 2019.

Celebrations at International School, Berne



Curious school children learning yogasanas during their International Day celebrations at International School, Berne on June 23, 2019.

Celebrations in Seelisberg



Glimpses of yoga session at Maharishi European Research University (MERU) at Seelisberg on June 26, 2019 as part of the International Day of Yoga 2019 celebrations.

Celebrations in Flaach



Glimpses of International Day of Yoga 2019 celebrations at Mata Amritanandamayi (Ammā) Center, Flaach, Switzerland on June 27, 2019.

Celebrations in Davos



Yoga enthusiasts turn up in large numbers at International Day of Yoga (IDY 2019) celebrations at Davos, Switzerland on June 29, 2019.

Celebrations at WHO Headquarters in Geneva



World Health Organization (WHO) observed IDY at their HQ in Geneva on June 21, 2019. School children from Geneva Schools were invited to participate in the event & were felicitated for their regular practice of yoga. More than 200 WHO staff participated in the event through different sessions, spread over two hours.

Other Yoga and Ayurveda Events

Ayurveda Symposium in Switzerland



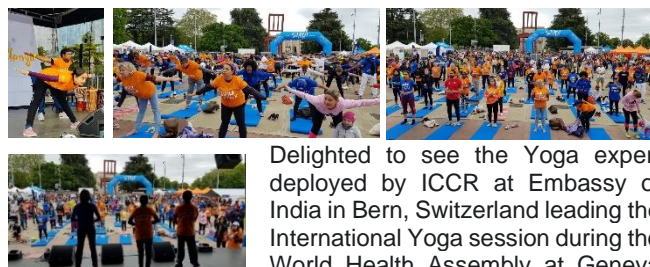
Opening remarks by Amb Sibi George and presentation by Dr. Geetha Krishnan, WHO scholar and renowned Ayurveda practitioner at a Symposium on Ayurveda at Inselspital University Hospital in Berne on May 6, 2019 with participation of students and faculty.

Release of Ayurveda Bulletin



The new edition of Ayurveda Bulletin by Embassy of India to Switzerland was released on May 4, 2019 in Bern. Amb Sibi George spoke about the growing interest for Yoga and Ayurveda in Switzerland and on the forthcoming International Day of Yoga celebrations.

Yoga in Geneva



Delighted to see the Yoga expert deployed by ICCR at Embassy of India in Bern, Switzerland leading the International Yoga session during the World Health Assembly at Geneva on May 19, 2019.

Yoga Session at Geneva



A basic session on Yoga was organized at Webster University Geneva by the Yoga expert from Embassy of India, Berne on April 10, 2019.



Cultural Events

Celebrating ICCR Foundation Day in Switzerland



Glimpses of ICCR Foundation Day celebrations in Berne, Switzerland on April 9, 2019. Highlights were Indian Dance performances, Yoga sessions and Quiz on ICCR & Indian culture.

Felicitation of the participants of 'SAREE - Traditional Indian Costume'



Amb Sibi George with Swiss Member of Parliament Nik Gugger and Madam Joice Sibi felicitating the participants of Indian Cultural Show 'SAREE - Traditional Indian Costume' at an event held in Berne on April 9, 2019.

Celebration of Gurudev Tagore's Jayanti in Switzerland



Swiss Puja Association organized a 'Prabhat Pheri' in Zurich and a 'Sangeet Sandhya' in Wettingen to celebrate Gurudev Tagore's Jayanti. Shri Rajiv Kumar, Second Secretary joined in the celebration.

Indian Cultural Evening in Switzerland



Second Secretary Roshni Thomson inaugurated the Grand

Finale of Keli Kalamela on Jun 9, 2019 in Zurich in Switzerland. The Kalamela brought together children from across Europe.

Celebrating Birth Anniversary of Gurudev Tagore In Switzerland



Embassy of India in Bern joins the faculty and students of University of Lausanne to celebrate the birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore on May 7, 2019. University of Lausanne has a Tagore Chair since 2011.

भारत एक परिचय



Amb Sibi George presented a set of selected books on India entitled "Bharat Ek Parichay (Know India): Sharing Knowledge with the World" to University of

Lausanne at a function attended by faculty and students of the University on May 7, 2019.

भारत एक परिचय



Amb Sibi George presented a set of hundred selected books on India entitled "Bharat Ek Parichay (Know India): Sharing India with the World" to Ms. Denise Coates, Director, International School of Berne on May 21, 2019.

Bringing India's Epics to life In Switzerland



Glimpses of classes on Indian culture & history and yoga sessions held for children at the Thematic Library of the Embassy of India in Berne.

Other Events

Homage to Swami Vivekananda In Switzerland



Glimpses of an event held at the historic Swiss Alps village of Saas Fee to commemorate the visit of Swami Vivekananda in 1896. Embassy of India to Switzerland jointly organized the event with Centre

Védantique Geneva and Saas Fee city.

Remembering Marshal of the Indian Air Force Arjan Singh



Marshal of the Indian Air Force Arjan Singh served as India's Ambassador to Switzerland and The Holy See during 1971 to 1974. Embassy of India to Switzerland and Indian Diaspora in Switzerland join the nation to pay tribute to him on his birth centenary.

Glimpses of a Talk by Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar



Glimpses of a Talk by Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar in Bern on Jun 6 to commemorate 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Attendees included Members of Swiss Parliament, Ambassadors, Mayors and Friends of India.

Expanding outreach



As part of MEA's SAMEEP - Student & MEA Engagement Programme, a young IFS officer Roshni Thomson conducted a session on the work & life as a diplomat at Sahridaya Institute, Kodakara, Kerala.

Visit of Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Founder of Art of Living to Switzerland



Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Founder of Art of Living, joined the tree plantation drive in Berne on June 6, 2019. The plantation drive was part of the celebrations to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Joint Painting of Tree in Switzerland



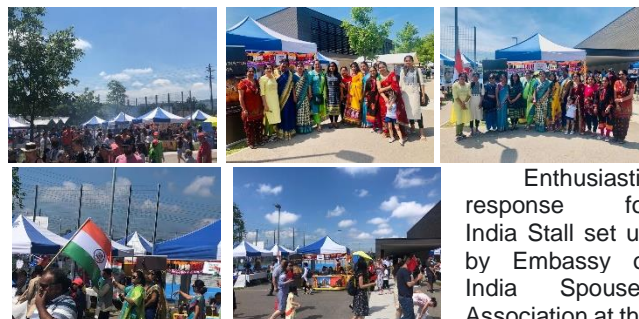
Glimpses of joint painting of symbolic tree to mark World Environment Day on June 5, 2019 as part of the celebrations of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in Berne. The youngest and eldest members of the Diaspora join hands.

Celebrating Mahatma in Switzerland



Glimpses of cycling event that the Embassy of India in Switzerland organized in Bern on June 3, 2019 to celebrate World Cycling Day as part of the celebrations to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

India Stall at IS, Berne



Enthusiastic response for India Stall set up by Embassy of India Spouses Association at the International School of Berne in Switzerland on June 23, 2019 during the International Day 2019.

Meeting on Science & Technology



Amb Sibi George with Indian and Swiss delegations for the Joint Working Group Meeting on Science & Technology headed by State Secretary of SERI Prof (Dr.) Martina Hirayama and Secretary, Dept of Science & Technology of India Prof Ashutosh Sharma on April 30, 2019 at India House in Berne.

Celebrating World Environment Day in Switzerland



Glimpses of tree planting event to mark the World Environment Day on June 5, 2019 as part of the celebrations to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi at India House in Berne.

Consular Services in Zurich

May 4



May 18



June 1



June 15



Embassy of India organized Consular Services in Zurich on May 4 & 18 and June 1 & 15. Consular Services will be available in Zurich on the first & third Saturday of every month.

Message from Ambassador



Dear Friends,

I send this Newsletter during the peak season of tourist inflows between India and Switzerland. This people to people connect remains a strong bridge between the two countries.

It is in this spirit that we are celebrating this year as the India Year of tourism in Switzerland. We organised a major India-Switzerland Tourism Summit in Berne earlier this year.

The scenic landscapes, beautiful river shores, calm lakes, high mountains and above all spirit of exploration and adventure connect India & Switzerland. The endeavors of this Mission are aptly described as 'Connecting Alps with Himalayas'.

I hope that you will enjoy reading this Newsletter. I also look forward to your comments and feedback.

Sibi George



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