

NEWSLETTER

A Quarterly Newsletter of Embassy of India, Berne

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: The World is a Family

Visit of Maharashtra Legislature delegation

A high-level Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Delegation of Maharashtra Legislature visited Berne on 15 February 2018. The delegation met the Swiss Vice-President Federal



Councillor Mr. Ueri Maurer and had an interactive session with 1st Swiss MP of Indian origin Mr. Niklaus S. Gugger amongst others.

MoS Shri M. J. Akbar meets Swiss India Chamber of Commerce



Minister of State for External Affairs Shri M.J. Akbar interacted with members of Swiss Indian

Chamber of Commerce and others over a luncheon Meeting in Zurich hosted by Ambassador Sibi George on January 21.

Sister State Agreement between Andhra Pradesh and Zurich



A Sister State Agreement between Andhra Pradesh, India and

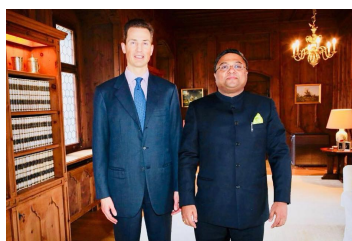
Zurich was signed on 22 January 2018 in Zurich.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Davos

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Davos, Switzerland from 22-23 January 2018. He became the first Indian Prime Minister to deliver the keynote address at the Plenary session of the World Economic Forum. This visit by an Indian Prime Minister to the WEF came after 20 years. During the visit, Prime Minister Modi also held a bilateral meeting with the Swiss President.

Ambassador Sibi George presented credentials to His Serene Highness Hereditary Prince Alois of Liechtenstein on 9 March 2018 at Vaduz Castle



Ambassador Sibi George presented credential to His Serene Highness Hereditary Prince Alois of Liechtenstein on 9 March 2018. He also made a courtesy call on H.E. Dr. Aurelia C. K. Frick, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Justice and Culture, Principality of

Liechtenstein. This year is the 25th year of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Liechtenstein.

16th session of India-Switzerland Joint Economic Commission



The 16th session of India-Switzerland Joint Economic Commission took place on 23 February 2018 in New Delhi.

New Initiatives

Launch of Indian Professionals Network [IPN]



The Indian Professionals Network was launched on 21 March 2018. Its 1st meeting took place at India House, Berne. The proceedings included a talk by Attorney at Law Anand J. Pazhenkottil followed by

discussions.

Launch of Indian Cultural Network [ICN]

The Indian Cultural Network was launched on 3 March 2018 with the celebration of Holi with the Indian Associations in Switzerland. The



Network will be undertaking culture-related activities along with the collaboration of Indian Diaspora and Associations.

Note: Entry into IPN and ICN events is by registration only.

AYUSH INFORMATION CENTRE

Participation in 30th Mednat & AgroBio Expo 2018



The Embassy of India, Berne participated in the Mednat & AgroBio Expo from 22-25 March 2018 in Laussane focusing on Yoga and Ayurveda. This Expo brings together experts in the various fields of natural medicines. Very enthusiastic response was received from the general public. A number of queries were received regarding any Yoga centre being run by the Embassy. The platform was also used to highlight the International Day of Yoga which is being celebrated by the Embassy on 23 June 2018 in Berne.

Trade and Investment

Launch of website of Momentum in India: Swiss SMEs Programme [MISSP]



The website of Momentum in India: Swiss SMEs Programme [MISSP], an Embassy of India, Berne initiative, was launched by Ambassador Sibi George on 2 February 2018 on the sidelines of the Investment and Trade Promotion Event

organised by the Mission. MISSP facilitates the entry of Swiss SMEs into the Indian market. A MISSP Workshops focusing on business entry into India is planned to take place in May 2018.

Participation in Travel Freisein, Zurich from 15-17 March 2018



The Embassy of India, Berne participated in the Travel Freisein, Zurich from 15-17 March 2018. The focus was on promoting Tourism to India, State facilitation, leather industry in India and disseminating information about Embassy of India's initiative 'Momentum in India: Swiss SMEs Programme', a market entry facilitation programme for the Swiss SMEs to enter the Indian market. The focus States were Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Goa, Uttar

Pradesh, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, and Karnataka.

State Facilitation Event at Horgen, Zurich on the sidelines of an event organised by KELI

The Embassy of India, Berne organised a State Facilitation event on the sidelines of an event organised by KELI on 24 March 2018 in Horgen, Zurich. The focus States were Kerala, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal. The State Facilitation event received an enthusiastic response from more than 300 Swiss participants who had arrived to participate in the



KELI event. Momentum in India: Swiss SMEs Programme was also promoted during the event.

Interaction with students and Universities

Bern University of Applied Sciences

Ambassador Sibi George and Team Embassy of India, Berne interacted with a delegation of faculty and students from the Bern University of Applied Sciences and visiting students from



Parul University, Gujarat, India on 21 March 2018 at India House.

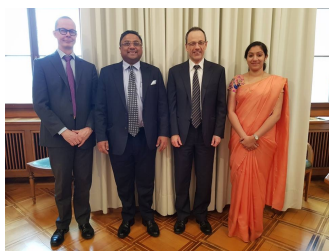
IMD Lausanne

Ambassador Sibi George visited IMD Lausanne on 6 March 2018. He met Prof. Jean-François Manzoni, President, IMD Lausanne and also had an interactive luncheon meeting with MBA students from India presently studying at IMD Lausanne.



ETH Zurich

Ambassador Sibi George met Prof. Lino Guzzella, President of ETH Zurich (Federal Institute of Technology) on 19 February 2018 at Zurich. Also present were Ms Roshni Thomson Second Secretary in charge of Education and Mr. Anders Hagström, Director Global Education Affairs of ETH Zurich.



University of St. Gallen



Ambassador Sibi George met Prof. Dr. Thomas Bieger, Rector of the University of St. Gallen on 22 March 2018 at St. Gallen. Ambassador also interacted with Students and faculty of the Asia Connect Centre and the India Competence Centre of

the University.

Cultural Events and Engagement with Diaspora

Celebration of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas



The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was celebrated at the India House, Berne on 9 January 2018.

69th Republic Day Reception



A Reception was hosted by Ambassador Sibi George on the occasion of the 69th Republic Day of India at Hotel Bellevue in Berne on 2 February 2018.

Holi Celebration with Indian Associations



The festival of colours *Holi* was celebrated at India House, Berne on 3 March 2018 with member of Indian Associations in Switzerland.

Remembering Indian Film Director (Late) Mr. Mani Kaul



Celebrating the 70th anniversary of signing of the India-Switzerland Treaty of Friendship, an event was organised at Museum Rietberg, Zurich on 24 March 2018 remembering Indian Director (late) Mr. Mani Kaul.

Events organised by Indian Associations



Holi celebration by Bharatiya Association Berne on 25 March



Holi celebration by Indian Association Lausanne on 17 March



International Women's Day celebration by Swiss Kerala Women Forum on 8 March in Basel

Engagement with Cantons

BERNE



Ambassador Sibi George met H.E. Mr. Christoph Neuhaus, Vice President of the Canton of Berne and Mr. Christoph Auer, Secretary of Chancery, of the Canton of Berne on 23 March 2018 at the historic building of 'Rathaus', 600 year old Council house for the Canton of Berne.

VOLKETSWIL, ZURICH



Ambassador Sibi George met Mayor of Volketswil Mr. Jean-Philippe Pinto and senior local officials at Volketswil Town Hall on 13 March 2018. Ambassador had an interactive session with representatives of

Chambers of Commerce and Industry Association in Volketswil.

GENEVA



Ambassador Sibi George called on His Excellency Mr. François Longchamp, President of the Canton of Geneva on 20 March 2018 in Geneva.

Message from Ambassador



Dear Friends,

I am pleased to send you the 1st edition of the Newsletter of this Embassy. It will enable us to establish a continuous channel of communication in every corner of Switzerland, the Holy See, and 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.

This Mission is also in the process of organising the celebration of the 4th International Day of Yoga. I look forward to significant participation of all of you in making the International Day of Yoga in Switzerland, and Liechtenstein a huge success.

In conclusion, I want to emphasise that this Embassy is a Home away from Home for all Indians and Indian diaspora in Switzerland, the Holy See, and Liechtenstein. I would also be happy to receive your feedbacks and suggestions.

(Sibi George)

Upcoming Events

17 May - Momentum In India: Swiss SMEs Programme Workshop on business entry into India on 17 May 2018 at 1 pm at FIFA Museum, Zurich. For registration please write to: dcm.berne@mea.gov.in

Please send your feedbacks and suggestions on dcm.berne@mea.gov.in

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