

Embassy of India

Berne

India-Switzerland Relations

A. Introduction

India and Switzerland have had cordial and friendly relations since India's Independence, based on shared values of democracy and rule of law. A Treaty of Friendship between India and Switzerland was signed at New Delhi on August 14, 1948; one of the first such treaties to be signed by independent India and an important milestone in Indo-Swiss relations. **2023 will mark the 75th anniversary of the signing of the India-Switzerland Friendship Treaty.**

The relations between India & Switzerland have achieved new heights following the visits of Rashtrapati ji to Switzerland in September 2019, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Switzerland in 2018 & 2016 and Swiss President Mrs. Doris Leuthard to India in August/September 2017. The Joint Statement issued during the visit of the Swiss President in 2017 noted the India-Switzerland relations as '**A Long Standing Dynamic Partnership**'.

Switzerland has an Embassy in New Delhi and Consulate Generals in Bengaluru and Mumbai; it also has Honorary Consuls based in Kolkata and Chennai. There is a Swiss Business Hub in Mumbai, and a Swissnex office in Bangalore. India has an Embassy in Berne and a Consulate General in Geneva. From 1971 to 1976, during and after Bangladesh's struggle for Independence, Switzerland represented India's interests in Pakistan.

B. Bilateral visits

President Ram Nath Kovind's State Visit to Switzerland in September, 2019:

Hon'ble President Shri Ram Nath Kovind paid a State Visit to Switzerland from September 11-15, 2019 accompanied by MoS for Women and Child Development Sushri Debasree Chaudhuri, Members of Parliament Dr. Ramapati Ram Tripathi and Shri Basanta Kumar Panda. A high level official and business delegation also accompanied President. President Kovind and Swiss President Ueli Maurer also made remarks at the India-Switzerland Business Round Table co-hosted by India and Switzerland on 13 September 2019 in Berne.

Swiss Vice President's visit to India in October 2019:

Ms. Simonetta Sommaruga, Vice President and Federal Councillor for Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications of the Swiss Confederation paid a working visit to India from October 18-21, 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).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Davos in January 2018:

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid a visit to Switzerland in January 2018. During his visit, PM Modi met H.E. Mr. Alain Berset, then President of the Swiss Confederation. After the bilateral segment, PM delivered the key-note address at the Inaugural Plenary Session of the Annual Meeting of World Economic Forum. Other Indian Ministers, Chief Ministers and senior Officials also participated in a number of sessions.

Swiss President's visit to India in 2017

President of the Swiss Confederation His Excellency Mrs. Doris Leuthard paid a *State Visit* to India from 30 August-02 September 2017, accompanied by the Swiss State Secretary for Economic Affairs, State Secretary for International Financial matter, amongst others and a 33-member high-level business delegation of CEOs and Senior Executives of leading Swiss companies. A comprehensive Joint Statement was issued during the visit. PM and the Swiss President jointly addressed a meeting of Swiss businessmen and leading Indian entrepreneurs with business interest in Switzerland.

PM's visit to Switzerland 2016

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid an official visit to Geneva, Switzerland on 5-6 June 2016. This was a historic visit; the first bilateral visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Switzerland in the last several decades. PM was accompanied by a high powered delegation and had a packed program which included highly productive bilateral meeting with the then 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.

Previous bilateral visits at HOS/HOG-level:

Incoming: President of the Swiss Confederation Her Excellency Mrs. Doris Leuthard paid a *State Visit* to India from 30 August-02 September 2017. Swiss President Mrs. Micheline Calmy-Rey [5-7 November 2007]; Swiss President Mr. Pascal Couchepin [6-12 November 2003]; Swiss President Mr. Flavio Cotti [1998; first ever visit by a Swiss President to India].

Outgoing: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid an official visit to Geneva, Switzerland on 5-6 June 2016. President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil [30 September to 4 October 2011]; President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam [May 2005]; President Shri V.V. Giri [1975].

Ministerial-level and Parliamentary visits:

Incoming: Federal Councillor Mr. Guy Parmelin, Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research [03-04 October 2022], Federal Councillor Mr. Ueli Maurer, Federal Department of Finance [10 August 2022], Federal Councillor Mrs. Simonetta Sommaruga, [18-21 October, 2019]; Mr. Niklaus Samuel Gugger, Member of Swiss Parliament [7-15 November 2018]; Foreign Minister Dr. Ignazio Cassis [10 August 2018]; Swiss Parliamentarian Mr. Niklaus Samuel 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]; Federal Councillor for Foreign Affairs 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]; Federal Councillor for Foreign Affairs Ms. Micheline Anne-Marie Calmy-Rey [August 2010]; a 4-member Swiss Parliamentary delegation [12 February 2016].

Outgoing: Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi [28-30 September 2021]; Indian Participation in Annual Meeting of World Economic Forum 2022, which was held in Davos from 22-26 May 2022, included Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Hardeep Singh Puri and Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Shri Mansukh Mandaviya etc.; Indian Participation in 50th Annual Meeting of World Economic Forum, which was held in Davos from 21-24 January 2020, included Union Minister of Commerce, Industry and Railways, MoS for Shipping and Chemicals & Fertilizers, Chief Ministers, State Ministers etc.; 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); Minister of State 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]; Minister of Commerce & Industry 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].

Virtual Meetings:

EAM Shri S. Jaishankar and Swiss Foreign Minister Mr. Ignazio Cassis [June 2020]

CIM Shri Piyush Goyal and Swiss Vice-President Mr. Guy Parmelin [8 December 2020]

Other visits

Incoming: FDFA Deputy State Secretary FDFA Mr. Stefan Flückiger [18-19 November 2022], Swiss FDFA State Secretary Ms. Livia Leu [2 August 2022] in New Delhi, Swiss State Secretary and Director SECO Marie-Gabrielle Ineichen-Fleisch [25-26 June 2018 in Mumbai]; Head of International Affairs, Swiss Federal Office of Energy Jean-Christophe Fueg [10-12 April 2018 in New Delhi]; Swiss State Secretary and Director SECO Marie-Gabrielle Ineichen-Fleisch [19-20 March 2018 in New Delhi]; State Secretary of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs Mrs. Pascal Bareiswyl [5 December 2017]; 4-member delegation led by Ambassador Frank Gutter, Head of Security Policy Division, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and including

Ambassador Thomas Schneider, Head of International Affairs, Federal Office of Communication, Government of Switzerland To participate in the 5th edition of Global Conference on Cyber Space [23-24 November 2017 in New Delhi]; Swiss State Secretary for International Financial Matters Mr. Jacques de Watteville [15 June 2016]; Swiss State Secretary for Economic Affairs Ms. Marie Gabriel Ineichen Fleisch [10 June 2016]

Outgoing: President of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Shri Dr. Vinay Sahasrabudde [30 October - 2 November 2021]; Secretary, Department of Heavy Industry Shri Arun Goel [for WEF in Jan 2020]; Secretary, Department of Commerce Shri Anup Wadhawan [for WEF in Jan 2020]; Secretary, DPIIT Shri Gurudas Mohapatra [for WEF in Jan 2020]; Secretary, Ministry of Power Shri Sanjiv Nandan Sahai [for WEF in Jan 2020]; Chairman, Railway Board Shri Vinod Kumar Yadav [for WEF in Jan 2020]; Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles Shri Joginath Panigrahi [for WEF in Jan 2020]; Principal Scientific Advisor to GoI, Professor K. VijayRaghvan [September 2-5, 2019]; Secretary, Department of Science and Technology Prof. (Dr.) Ashutosh Sharma [28 April-1 May 2019]; Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dr. K.P. Krishnan [3-6 July 2018]; Foreign Secretary Dr. S. Jaishankar [10-13 Sept. 2015]; Ms. Sujata Mehta, Secretary (West) [8 March 2016]; Secretary, Department of Science & Technology Prof. Ashutosh Sharma [16-19 Sept 2015]; a delegation from the International Cooperation Division of M/o Skill Development and Entrepreneurship [31 August to 8 Sept. 2015]; Secretary, Department of Sports Shri Ajit Mohan Sharan [23-25 March 2015]; Revenue Secretary Shri Shaktikanta Das [15 October 2014]

C. Bilateral Dialogue Mechanism

- i. **Foreign Office Consultations (FOC)**: The FOC were established in January 1996 with the 1st round of FOC taking place at the Secretary-level in February 2000. The latest [11th] round of FOC was held in New Delhi on 2 August 2022.
- ii. **Joint Economic Commission**: It was set up in 1959 to intensify economic and commercial relations. Its latest session [18th] was held virtually on 9 September 2021.
- iii. **Joint Committee on Science & Technology**: The 1st meeting of the Indo-Swiss Joint Committee on S&T was held on 23 September 2011 in Berne. The latest [5th] meeting of the Joint Committee was held on 30 April 2019 in Berne. The 6th Indo-Switzerland Joint Committee Meeting was held on 04 October 2022 in New Delhi.
- iv. **Consular Dialogue**: The 1st round of the composite dialogue on Consular and Legal matters was held in New Delhi on 2 March 2012. The latest [5th] round of the India-Switzerland Consular Dialogue was held in Berne on November 11, 2019.
- v. **Financial Dialogue**: The 1st round of the Financial Dialogue was held in Berne on 6 July 2012. The latest [4th] round was held on 11 May 2021.
- vi. **Defence Dialogue**: The 1st Defence dialogue was held on 18 November 2016 in New Delhi. Negotiations are ongoing to fix the dates for the next round of the dialogue.

D. Commercial Relations

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. In 1915 when Europe was in the grip of the war and the need of the hour was to secure for Switzerland food and economic prospects, the Swiss Consulates were set up in key locations across the world including Mumbai. The Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai, set up based on 1949 agreement signed between the Government of India and the Swiss Cars and Elevators Manufacturing Ltd. Zurich, celebrated its diamond jubilee in Sept. 2015. It expanded its network, diversifying its activities, and soon becoming the backbone of Switzerland's economic presence in India.

The Indo-Swiss Treaty of Friendship signed in 1948 laid the foundation for a strong economic content to the bilateral relationship. Article 3 to 6 of this Treaty secured the "most favoured foreign nation treatment" to Switzerland. As provided by the Treaty itself, it has set the pace for further treaties like Double Taxation Treaty in November, 1994, followed by Amendment protocol in 2010, Promotion and Protection of Investment Treaty in July 1997. The first major investment by Swiss companies in India came in the mid-50s.

Bilateral Trade & Investment: India is Switzerland's 7th largest trading partner and Switzerland is 12th largest investor into India. The bilateral trade between India & Switzerland was US\$25 Billion approx during FY 2021-22, mostly in bullion. Trade in services is about US\$ 2 Billion. There are about 100 Indian companies in Switzerland, which generate an approx. cumulative turnover of CHF 3-3.25 billion, employing approx. 4000 people in Switzerland. The majority of these companies are from IT services & consultancy, Pharmaceutical and Equipment & machinery sectors.

As per the figures of the year 2021 provided by Swiss Impex, Federal Office of Customs and Border Security, India was the 7th largest trading partner for Switzerland with the total bilateral trade including bullion, amounting to USD 33.67 billion. The imbalance mainly arises out of export of bullion and precious metals to India. As per the DPIIT's figures for the period April 2000-June 2022, India was Switzerland's 12th largest trading partner with the total bilateral trade including bullion, amounting to USD 9.37 billion.

The major items of Indian exports to Switzerland are organic chemicals, pearls, precious stones and jewellery, textiles and garments, dyestuffs, electrical machinery and parts, leather products, shoes and shoe uppers, cotton, plastics, coffee. Besides bullion, Swiss exports to India consist of chemicals & pharmaceuticals, machinery, transport equipment's, precision engineering products and watches.]

The Embassy of India in Berne has initiated the ***Momentum of India: Swiss SMEs Programme (MISSP)*** for facilitating the entry of Swiss SMEs into the Indian market. Its 3rd year titled MISSP3.0 was launched on 1 March 2021.

E. Sectoral Cooperation

Science & Technology: During the State visit of Hon'ble President Shri Ram Nath Kovind to Switzerland, a Letter of Intent in the form of an India-Switzerland Science and Innovation Alliance between the Government of the Republic of India and the Swiss Federal Council was signed in September 2019. To oversee and coordinate S&T Cooperation, the Joint Committee on Science and Technology has been set up. The Call for Proposals 2020 will support proposals in cutting-edge Systems Medicine including current COVID 19 pandemic.

Railways: During the visit of the Swiss President to India in August-September 2017, two MoUs were signed in the field of Railways. The first joint Working Group (JWG) Meeting between India and Switzerland under the MoU was held on October 21, 2019 at New Delhi. 2nd meeting of JWG on technical cooperation in rail sector was held at Berne on 30 August 2022. During the meeting a 3-member delegation from Railway Board, Ministry of Railways, Government of India, officials from Swiss Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications, Federal Office of Transport, members of SwissRail and representatives of few railway equipment manufacturing companies based in Switzerland were present.

Civil Aviation: An Air Services Agreement (ASA) was signed in May 2001. Swiss Airlines commenced direct flight to Delhi from December 2007. The Protocol amending India-Switzerland Air Services Agreement was signed in March 2020.

Tourism: According to the Swiss Federal Statistics Office, 347,750 Indian tourists visited Switzerland in 2018 and they were responsible for 780,815 overnight stays in the country. As per the agreed minutes of 17th session of India-Switzerland Joint Economic Commission (JEC) held in Berne on March 2, 2020, an MoU between India and Switzerland in the field of Tourism is being considered.

AYUSH: Ayurveda along with 3 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 on 17 November 2020. The Mission organized various Yoga and Ayurveda events, printed Ayurveda and Common Yoga Protocol (CYP) booklets, which were gifted and/or presented as souvenirs to distinguished guests and dignitaries. During all the commercial events, the Embassy always setup an Ayurveda and Yoga lounge displaying various CYP booklets and Ayurveda brochures. Moreover, yoga classes being conducted at the Mission's premises, are attended by the diplomatic community in Switzerland. Recently, the Embassy of India, Berne organized an event on Yoga, Ayurveda and Wellness to promote Ayurveda Aahar along with Ayurveda for Holistic Health and Wellbeing.

Climate Change & Environment: During the State visit of Hon'ble President Shri Ram Nath Kovind to Switzerland from September 11-15, 2019, MoU on Technical Cooperation in the field of Climate Change and Environment between Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate

Change and Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Confederation has been signed.

F. Cultural relations & people to people contacts

The two countries do not have an institutional arrangement on cultural cooperation like Cultural Cooperation Agreement or CEP. Numerous Swiss artists and researchers had been actively engaged in the Indian subcontinent, notably Le Corbusier (architecture) and Alice Boner (painter, sculptor, art historian) while film producers such as Yash Chopra brought Switzerland and India closer through popular Hindi movies filmed in the Swiss Alps.

India in the Alps: AKAM Iconic Week – 2022 was celebrated from 19/09/22 to 02/10/2022 by this Mission by organizing an Indian cultural festival showcasing music, dance, exhibition, cuisine, crafts, Bollywood & yoga in Switzerland titled 'India in the Alps'. The festival embodied a spirit of collaboration through a shared cultural experience across artistic art forms and expressions. The festival also commemorated 75 years of India-Swiss diplomatic relations through an eclectic programme of dance, food, music, processions, and workshops. It was a great success and helped the two sides to know the rich culture of India. Some of the major events organized during 'India in the Alps' were a) opening Gala including a short parade of giant puppets followed by music performance by Rajasthani folk band b) bollywood dance Workshop & Well-being Session c) exclusive exhibition titled '[Gandhi@150](#)' showcasing a rare collection of archival photographs taken by press photographer Kulwant Roy d) 'Shakti'-Mohiniyattam & Kalaripayattu dance performance by a cultural troupe led by Ms. Radhika Menon e) concert by Dr. L. Subramaniam & Kavita Krishnamurti etc.

International Day of Yoga 2022 was celebrated by Embassy of India, Berne from 03 June 2022 to 23 July 2022 at various venues across Switzerland. The venues are as follows:

- Berne
- Basel
- Zurich
- Schilthorn Mountain Peak
- St. Moritz
- Lugano
- Davos

Other Cultural events organized recently include:

- Vishwa Hindi Diwas, [January 10, 2021], (Virtual Event)
- Webinar on Swachhata [January 15, 2021], Berne (Virtual Event)
- Celebration of National Youth Day [January 12, 2021], Saas Fee
- Namaste Switzerland Cultural Gala for India@75 [March 26, 2021], Berne
- Hindi Diwas September 2021 - Hindi Diwas was celebrated in the month of September (01 to 14) by Embassy of India, Berne. Main events were held in Vevey and Berne.

- Screening of documentary on 'Sardar Vallabhai Patel' [September 23 2021].
- Yoga session was organized by the Embassy of India, Berne during the official visit of Hon'ble MoS Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi on September 28, 2021.
- Namaste Switzerland – Diaspora Event: Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi attended the cultural event and interacted with members of Indian diaspora in Zurich where she also released a booklet on Mahatma Gandhi and inaugurated the ICCR sponsored Khadi Tapestry Exhibition as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- Gandhi@150 in Switzerland: Hon'ble Mayor of Villeneuve Ms. Corinne Ingold joined Ambassador Monika K. Mohta to pay floral tribute at Mahatma Gandhi bust at Gandhi Square, Villeneuve, Switzerland. (October 2, 2021)
- 'Make In India' Promotion event was organized by the Embassy of India, Berne under the theme India@75, Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav – Aatmanirbhar Bharat(Oct 26, 2021)
- Fernweh Festival 2021 : Presentations on Rajasthan Tourism & Culture, Investment Opportunities, and Mining Sector were projected during the event (October 30, 2021)
- Celebration of Constitution Day : A photo exhibition on the 'Making of Constitution of India' & screening of documentaries on 'Constitution of India (November 26, 2021)
- Screening of Indian Film 'Bahubali' : As part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, Embassy organized the screening of Indian Film 'Bahubali' at Alpine Museum, Berne on 17 December, 2021
- Hindi workshop organized by Embassy of India, Berne on 23 December, 2021 as part of the ongoing Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations
- Celebration of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas on 10 January 2022
- Screening of documentary to commemorate 125th Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on 24 January 2022
- As part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, Embassy of India, Berne organized "Jharokha: Celebrating Crafts of India" Exhibition at Naturhistorisches Museum, Berne on 03 February, 2022
- Event on "Interaction with Business Community in Switzerland" as a part of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (March 04, 2022)
- Photo exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi at St. Gallen as a part of celebration of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav(April 21, 2022)
- Celebration of Holi Festival at Interlaken (May 04, 2022)
- Commemoration of 161st birth anniversary of Shri Rabindranath Tagore: Exhibition on Tagore's painting, cultural performances, screening of Bengali feature film "Ghare Baire" written & directed by Satyajit Ray(May 07, 2022)
- Celebration of International Day of Yoga in various cities and locations in Switzerland such as Berne, Zurich, Schilthorn peak, Basel, Davos, Vevey during June 2022.
- Inauguration of TRIFED Corner at Embassy of India, Berne on 29 June 2022
- Independence Day reception in Berne, 16 August 2022 Cultural performance and an Exhibition of Rabindranath Tagore's paintings also formed part of the reception.
- National Day reception in Schaan, Liechtenstein on 24 August 2022. Cultural performance and an Exhibition of Rabindranath Tagore's paintings also formed part of the reception.
- Hindi Diwas was celebrated on 11 October 2022.

- Mission participated by setting up India Lounge in Fernweh Festival in Berne (29 – 30 October, 2022)
 - Rashtriya Ekta Diwas was celebrated by Mission on 31 October 2022.
 - An event showcasing district-specific handicraft and textile products to brand and promote the "One District - One Product" initiative in Switzerland was organised by Mission on 18 Oct 2022.
- In the Joint Statement issued during the State visit of Swiss President to India in 2017, both sides acknowledged the need for greater people-to-people contact at different levels, particularly in the field of academics, culture, cinema etc. to foster closer ties between the two countries.
- ICCR's Tagore Chair (Hindi) was established at the University of Lausanne (UNIL) during the visit of then President of India in 2011. In the year 2016, the MoU was extended for 3 years. During the state visit of then Hon'ble President in September 2019, the MoU was renewed for a further period of **5 years**. This MoU will remain in force till the end of UNIL's academic year 2024-2025. ICCR appoints a professor every year for the spring semester that runs from February to June.
- President Kovind unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi in the commune of Villeneuve which Mahatma Gandhi had visited in 1931. The bust is a gift from India to the commune of Villeneuve as part of celebrations of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. To mark the International Day of Peace and Non-Violence, a statue of Mahatma Gandhi was installed in Ariana Park, Geneva on 14 November 2007. The 150th birth centenary celebrations of Swami Vivekananda were held in Saas Fee on 30 August 2013 with the unveiling of a plaque at Hotel Grand Metropole where Swami Vivekananda stayed in 1896. A bronze bust of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore was unveiled to commemorate the 150th birth Anniversary of Gurudev Tagore on 4 October 2011 during the *State Visit* of President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the University of Lausanne.
- Switzerland opened an office of Pro Helvetia – Swiss Arts Council in New Delhi in 2007. Pro Helvetia focuses its efforts on contemporary literature, visual arts, dance and design and offers scholarships in Switzerland as well as in India. The Rietberg Museum in Zurich reportedly possesses the largest collection of Indian miniature paintings outside India and the UK.
- **Indian community:** The Indian community in Switzerland comprises of approximately 24,800 Indians including over 8500 persons of Indian origin. Most of them are professionals in Engineering, IT, pharmaceuticals and paramedical fields. There are about 876 Indian students studying in Switzerland.

November , 2022