



April 2023

## NEWSLETTER

Dear fellow citizens,

It is with great pleasure that we bring to you our first Consular Newsletter.

The intent of this communication is to provide you with information that is useful to the Swiss Community residing in India and Bhutan. The Newsletter will be regularly sent to all Swiss citizen in a consolidated manner together with the General Consulate in Mumbai and the Consulate in Bangalore. Please, inform us if you do not wish to receive regular news from the Consular part of the Network in India.

As Consular section of the Embassy of Switzerland in New Delhi, we provide the full range of consular services to you, our Swiss compatriots and the citizens of Liechtenstein living in India and Bhutan.

Our team is dedicated to provide you with the best possible service and we are always happy to receive your feedback, especially if you have suggestions on how we could cater better for your needs. You will find the contact details of the Swiss Embassy in New Delhi at the end of the communication. Please also consult our website, which is constantly updated and rich in content, and follow us on the social media.

With the hope that this newsletter will meet with your interest, we wish you a good reading and a happy and joyful Easter.

### ➔ Consular Network

#### New Honorary Consul in Bhutan

We are pleased to inform you that since January 2023, the Swiss consular network in Bhutan has a new representative in Mr. Kinga SINGYE. Contact information [here](#)  
The Honorary Consul supports Swiss citizens who find themselves in need because of illness, an accident or theft while travelling. It also informs the responsible Swiss representation.  
Please note that is an honorary representation without consular authority, therefore not dealing with visas or Swiss passports. **For all current consular matters, please contact directly the Embassy of Switzerland in New Delhi.**

### ➔ E-Administration



**A new app that makes staying in touch even easier: SwissInTouch** Approximately 780'000 Swiss citizens abroad currently benefit from the wide range of services provided by a global network of representations offering advice and support.  
**Now there's a new app that makes staying in touch even easier: SwissInTouch keeps Switzerland at your fingertips.**

The application supports existing communication platforms, such as local consular services, the FDFA's online desk and Travel Admin, the companion app for Swiss travellers.

[SwissInTouch](#) aims to bring the Swiss abroad and the public authorities closer together. The app fosters targeted communication: representations abroad can post updates directly intended for the Swiss community in their consular district. It is also possible to send out information to specific target groups, such as senior citizens or students. This means users have a

single dedicated newsfeed for their place of residence, which makes it much easier to access information that might otherwise be scattered in different places.

No registration is necessary, although you do need to create an account to access some additional features. These include a chat function allowing users to contact the representation informally, even outside office hours. Anonymous surveys give users a say on a variety of issues, ensuring that the needs of the Swiss abroad are better taken into account. And lastly, a personalised calendar makes it easier to register for a consular service appointment and sign up for certain events.

### ONLINE DESK for Swiss nationals residing abroad

The FDFA's online desk offers Swiss nationals abroad the opportunity to request services from the comfort of your home.

- Once you have registered, you can:
- View your personal details.
- Order a confirmation of your registration and nationality.
- Announce civil status matters such as marriages, births, adoptions, changes of names, deaths, etc.
- Announce changes of address
- Registration or de-registration in the electoral register
- Update contact details (phone, email, etc.).
- Order publications (Swiss Review, the representation's newsletter).
- Contact your representation



Link to register with the [Online Desk](#)

## ➔ Consular Affairs

### Introduction of the new Swiss passport and Identity Card

**While the design has been completely revamped, the procedure for issuing remains the same and all identity documents issued to date remain valid.**

The design of the Swiss passport is about 20 years old. Following the introduction of biometrics in 2006, it was adapted to the security standards in force at the time. Today's security standards require the renewal of the Swiss passport and the Swiss Identity card.



The Swiss passport will continue to travel under its world-famous red cover. **It will now contain a representation of the "fifth Switzerland", i.e. the Swiss abroad**, on one of the visa pages, alongside the 26 cantons.

This [video](#) will give you more information about the new features and design of the Swiss passport.

## Electoral year 2023 / Voting registration

### Would you like to participate in the 2023 federal election? Are you registered to vote?

You may exercise your political rights by correspondence under the following conditions:

- you are domiciled abroad,
- you are at least 18 years old
- you are registered with a Swiss representation

If you meet the above requirements, you may apply, if not already done, to the Swiss General Consulate in Mumbai for registration in the electoral register either by applying directly in person or by sending the duly filled out and signed [application form](#) to exercise your political rights.

The electoral municipality will directly confirm in writing your registration in its electoral register, and will also forward to you the necessary voting materials. Any questions you may have or difficulties you encounter with the voting procedure should be referred directly to the municipality in question.

## Keep your contact information up to date

**It is important that the information in the Register of Swiss Abroad is up to date especially in case of a crisis.**

Therefore, please inform us of any change of address, email or phone number either through the Online desk (see above) or by email [newdelhi@eda.admin.ch](mailto:newdelhi@eda.admin.ch).

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

## ➔ Communication



Auslandsschweizer  
Organisation (ASO)

How to best connect and network with the Swiss Community abroad?

- [Online-Plattform von SwissCommunity](#), register for free
- [FACEBOOK](#)
- [INSTAGRAM](#)
- [LINKEDIN](#)
- [TWITTER](#)
- [YOUTUBE](#)

Find the link to a short video about the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA). Like it and subscribe to the YouTube channel.

Deutsch: <https://youtu.be/qpcwBACumqk>

Französisch: <https://youtu.be/5O7H1eFZQkA>

Italienisch: <https://youtu.be/QFqYJckbHvo>

Englisch: <https://youtu.be/hiTA1w06Zis>

For more information, please contact the Delegate for India by the OSA, Mr. Rolf Blaser, who lives in Sri Lanka:

Tel. +94 (11) 244 4861 | Mobile +94 (77) 231 1231

[president@swisscircle.org](mailto:president@swisscircle.org)

## News from the Organization of the Swiss Abroad (OSA)

### New partnership between the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, SwissCommunity, and the Zürcher Kantonalbank

For Swiss citizens living abroad, it is often difficult to maintain a financial relationship with Switzerland.

For this reason, the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, SwissCommunity, has been working for several years to find solutions in this field. SwissCommunity is therefore pleased about its new partnership with the Zürcher Kantonalbank, which offers attractive banking conditions for Swiss Abroad. **It came into effect on January 1, 2023.**

This is SwissCommunity's second strategic partnership with a bank. It follows the one concluded with the Banque cantonale de Genève in 2017.

### Webinar « Aging Abroad” held on February 9<sup>th</sup> 2023

On 9 February 2023, the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA), SwissCommunity, was holding a webinar in collaboration with the FDFA, the Swiss Compensation Office and Soliswiss on the topics of 'Aging Abroad' and OASI.

The webinar is aimed at people with Swiss citizenship who already live abroad or who are considering moving abroad for their retirement. During the webinar, experts gave an overview of this complex issue and answered questions directly or indirectly connected to OASI (old-age and survivors' insurance).

A video recording of the webinar is available in [German](#) and [French](#). Please switch to the respective language of our website.



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Webinar on the topics of 'Aging Abroad' and OASI

## Culture & Education

### SwitzerlandIndia 75: Success stories to be continued



On August 14<sup>th</sup>, 1948, Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Armin Däniker, Switzerland's first envoy to India, signed a Friendship Treaty between the two countries. In 2023, this event will reach its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Having recognized India early after her independence, Switzerland is part of the finest club of States already enjoying 75 years of relationship with India.

To celebrate this special occasion, the Swiss network in India plans to coordinate 75 events/projects around the country. The events will leverage on the strengths of our network in India, assembling everyone under the same umbrella. Each event will tell a specific story of Switzerland's action in the country, highlighting the diversity of our presence and impact in India.

Keep watching our website and social media channels for more updates and announcements!

### Swiss Embassy monthly events calendar

The Swiss Embassy in Delhi publishes a monthly events calendar listing the events planned by the Swiss network in India and Bhutan.

This calendar is published at the end of each month, providing a preview of the next one.

For those who have not seen the product yet, here is a link to the [February 2023](#) dispatch. If you are not already on the recipient list and would like to receive this monthly listing, please subscribe via the [online form](#).

## Switzerland Tourism

### Neeraj Chopra as the new Friendship Ambassador of Switzerland Tourism

Neeraj created one of the greatest moments in Indian sporting history in Tokyo in 2021. He won India's first-ever Olympic gold medal in athletics and became the second Indian to win an individual gold medal at Olympics. Neeraj also got a silver medal in the athletics world championship in the US as well as a gold in Diamond league in Switzerland last year.



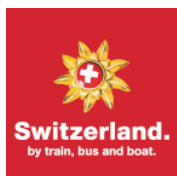
See more on [MySwitzerland.com/NeerajChopra](https://www.myswitzerland.com/NeerajChopra)

visuals and videos were produced, which precisely make up the large-scale advertising campaign that began in February ahead of the upcoming vacation season for our Indian target audience.

With Neeraj, Switzerland Tourism wants to promote a dynamic Switzerland, for a public that is eager to discover new destinations and activities that go beyond clichés. The focus of the communication is the athlete engaged in multiple outdoor activities.

The project began last fall with the athlete's trip to Switzerland. During this trip, numerous key

### GoldenPass Express redefines the travel experience



With the GoldenPass Express, it is now possible to travel directly between Interlaken and Montreux in 3 hours and 15 minutes. Revolutionary technology with variable track gauge makes the dream a reality. The new panoramic train is operated by the Montreux-Berner Oberland Railway (MOB). Plans to offer a seamless connection on this route have existed for over a hundred years.

Thanks to a world first, this dream is finally becoming a reality. Thanks to adjustable bogies, the train can adapt to the changing track width on this route within a few seconds. Therefore, changing trains in Zweisimmen is no longer necessary. The new Prestige Class is the centerpiece of the new train. The exclusive travel class offers discerning travelers everything they expect from an unforgettable train journey: plenty of privacy, maximum comfort in a small compartment, and an exceptional culinary offering. The Prestige Class is offered in addition to a 1st and 2nd class.

### World Economic Forum (WEF), Davos

The SBHI, in partnership with the Swiss-Indian Chamber of Commerce and Invest India, organized the Swiss-Indian innovation event, *Swiss Precision with India's Scale*, at the India Lounge in Davos during WEF 2023. Additionally, the SBHI organized meetings for Ambassador Dr. Ralf Heckner, with several business leaders, policymakers, bureaucrats, and multipliers from India to explore potential collaboration opportunities between the two countries. Also, the SBHI facilitated a visit to Switzerland Innovation Park - Innovaare in Villigen for the delegates of ten Indian companies.

### Northeast Mission with Ambassador Dr. Ralf Heckner

The SBHI, in collaboration with the Embassy, is organizing a business mission to the northeastern part of India covering three cities – Gangtok (Sikkim), Kolkata (West Bengal), and Guwahati (Assam). Ambassador Dr. Ralf Heckner will lead a delegation of eight Swiss companies. The main goal of this mission is to explore potential business expansion opportunities in the northeastern part of India.

### Swiss Automotive Mission to India

The SBHI plans to bring a delegation of Swiss automotive companies to India for a 4-day visit from 29<sup>th</sup> May – 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023. The delegation will visit automotive manufacturing companies, industry experts, Swiss companies already present in India, and potential business partners. The visit will cover India's key automotive clusters - Chennai, Pune and New Delhi.

### Swiss Rail Mission to India

The SBHI plans to bring a delegation of Swiss rail companies and associations to India from 12-14 October 2023. The delegation will most likely visit the International Railway Equipment Exhibition (IREE) in New Delhi. The objective of this mission is to build mutually beneficial partnerships and collaborations with the Indian Ministry of Railways and other key stakeholders of the rail ecosystem in India.

### IFAT 2023

As in 2022, the SBHI plans to invite a delegation of Swiss companies to showcase their technologies at the IFAT expo 2023 in Mumbai. IFAT is India's leading trade fair for water, sewage, solid waste and recycling. This trade fair provides an ideal platform to network with key industry players, innovators and business partners from across the globe.

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