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Newsletter of the Embassy of Belgium in New Delhi and the Consulate General of Belgium in Mumbai

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Ambassadors corner



It is a great pleasure for me to convey this message to the compatriots having some connections with India and to the Indian friends of Belgium while launching this Newsletter. Our purpose, by doing so, is to strengthen the ties between all friends and partners of the Embassy by sharing and exchanging more information on the bilateral relations between India and Belgium. A lot has been happening in the recent years at all levels, starting with the state visit of their Majesties the King and the Queen in October 2008, the economic mission headed by H.R.H. Prince

Philippe in March 2010, as well as the visit to Belgium of H.E Mr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India, in December 2010. Multiple contacts take place among our business and scientific communities, but we all know there is room for more. The choice of India as the guest country for the cultural festival "Europalia 2013" is just one example, among many others, of the new awareness in Belgium about the important position of the country, not only as a crucial economic and trade partner but also as a part of Asia that has generated one of the most ancient and diversified civilisations of this continent.

Our ambition is to make this newsletter an additional vehicle contributing to a better understanding and information among all stakeholders of an enhanced Indian – Belgian partnership. Above all, this newsletter will be YOUR newsletter. We will keep in mind that its purpose is to promote better information and networking. We are also open to all suggestions and comments in order to improve it. We are most willing to publish news or views of interest to all our readers. We already thank you for your support and your interest!

Pierre Vaesen
Ambassador

Consul General's corner

In Mumbai, the Gateway of India extends a welcome to the continent, but also to the world. We want to be of help in that exploration. And the buzz and humms of the city get reflected in the spirit of our Consulate General!

We're there to help you, be it for business, consular assistance or the sheer pleasure to discover Belgium and Europe. As a fresh mumbaiker, I would like to offer you a "service level agreement": quality in our service is of the utmost importance. Our office is processing about 20 to 25% of all Belgian visa requests worldwide

– 35,000 to 40,000 a year for Mumbai alone. The task is challenging, but our bottomline is to be efficient and fair in every single request, while keeping the borders open and secure.

To enhance our presence and effectiveness in India, my team can now count on a newly arrived, motivated and hands-on 2nd deputy, Mr. Eduard van Kleunen. He will be beefing up our "economic diplomacy", be a point of contact for many among you, and relay i.a. with the press in Mumbai.

And we hit the ground running: a road show to promote investment in Flanders was well received in major cities in the south of India. But there is more to come: an official visit by Minister-President Kris Peeters next November is approaching quickly, the diamond business ties the links between Mumbai and Antwerp ever closer and our port authorities will again set sail for India in the coming months. Because we all believe in the potential for the further development of India. We are convinced we can be of help in many areas of that challenge. Our companies foster excellent know how, services and products and are willing to engage in a win-win relationship.

This news letter is a new way of keeping in touch with you. But we want you to stay in touch with us as well. So please give us feedback if you want to. And do keep us informed about your contact details. It might serve you well in case you need consular assistance!

So welcome again and enjoy the reading. Belgium offers you the Gateway to Europe!

Karl Van den Bossche
Consul General



Business news

Visit of Mr Kris Peeters, Minister President of the Flemish region

From 13 to 19 November, Minister-President Kris Peeters will visit India along with a high-profile delegation of Flemish businessmen. The Minister-President will visit four of the most dynamic and important cities in India. First, he will visit Mumbai, the commercial and financial heart of the country. Then New Delhi, where the Minister-President will have several high-level political contacts, followed by Bangalore, the technological capital of India. He will conclude his trip in Chennai, with its booming automobile sector. More information:

www.flandersinvestmentsandtrade.be

Telecom India

Flanders Investments and Trade is getting prepared for Telecom India, the telecom fair that will take place in Delhi from 7 to 9 December. You have all heard about the boom in the Indian telecom sector that witnesses an increase of 15 million new mobile telecom users a month! A flourishing market that offers plenty of opportunities!

An Indian company to set up a new PET plant in Geel

An Indian based company – JBF Industries – is to set up a new polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plant in the town of Geel. PET is an extremely important industrial polymer which has a wide spectrum of uses, ranging from food packaging to engineering glass fibers. JBF Industries, which was established in 1982, is one of the top players in the Polyester Partially Oriented Yarns (POY) in India. The new PET facility in Geel is said to be ready in 2014 and will have an impressive capacity of 390,000 ton per year. More information on www.jbfindia.com

Flemish research centre, Imec, forms a partnership with Indian Wipro Technologies

On May 25th, Imec announced the establishment of Imec India in Bangalore, Karnataka, making a first step towards the Indian market with the signing of a R&D partnership agreement with Wipro Technologies, the Global Information Technology, Consulting and Outsourcing business of Wipro Limited. Imec is a leading independent applied research organization that carries out research activities in semiconductor, nanotechnology and nanoelectronics, delivering industry relevant technology solutions. Imec and Wipro have created a joint initiative to co-innovate and build next generation intelligent systems, called Applied Research in Intelligent Systems Engineering (ARISE). More information on www2.imec.be/

TNT Airways launches its flights to Delhi

TNT Airways S.A., a Belgian carrier, launched its cargo freighter services to and from India on the 12th of May 2011. TNT Airways S.A. is a subsidiary of TNT Express, based in Liège, Belgium and currently operates three times per week 747F cargo freighters between Liège, Hong Kong and Delhi, transporting freight from Delhi to various European destinations via Liège (trucking services) as well as to the US. After Jet Airways, TNT Airways S.A. is the second carrier operating direct flights between India and Belgium, reinforcing Belgium as a nodal point in the India-Europe trade and logistics network.

A new Wallonia business centre/incubator in Pune, Maharashtra

The Walloon Export and Foreign Investments Agency (AWEX) proposes to the Walloon companies interested in the Indian market to settle in an incubator in Pune, Kalyani Nagar, in the State of Maharashtra, 160 km from Mumbai.

The incubator is located 5 minutes away from the international airport and at 10 minutes distance from the Pune station.

The incubator offers to the Walloon entrepreneurs all the related services with comfort and optimization of their local integration: an equipped office, air-conditioned, with internet access. With framing and support of an experienced international team who will largely facilitate the success of new Walloon projects in India.

Granules-Omnichem Pvt Ltd

Ajinomoto Omnichem and Granules India Ltd created a Joint Venture with Hyderabad for an amount of 20 million \$: GRANULES-OMNICHEM Pvt Ltd, whose construction will start in November 2011.

The goal of this JV is the production of APIs for third and intermediaries intended for the Indian market of generics, estimated at \$ 234 billion.

Ensival-Moret India

Created in 2011, Ensival-Moret India is established in the town of Pune in order to install an assembling workshop for its industrial pumps coming from the region of Liège.

Grass Tech

Grass Tech is the manufacturer and marketer of the former "Plastic Products" division of Solutia Company, acquired by Time Technoplast Ltd., a multinational Company based in Mumbai and leading technology based innovative polymer product company with manufacturing facilities across the world. The joint commercial activities of the former Solutia owned and TimeTech owned products and brands will be co-coordinated by the newly created Belgium based company Grass Tech Solutions SPRL in Louvain-La-Neuve, including Marketing & Distribution services in Belgium as well as a very organized distribution network across the world.

Pharmac India

AWEX participated in PHARMAC INDIA, a trade fair dedicated to the Indian Medical & Pharmaceutical industry, from 17 to 19 September 2011 in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Sixteen meetings were organized with beforehand selected companies of Gujarat, during the fair as well as within the information stand which was assembled for company support.

Engineering Expo Pune

AWEX will participate in Engineering Expo Pune, from 18 to 21 November, organizing one seminar and 12 meetings with selected companies.

This event is dedicated to the engineering technologies and products. This four day event has been organized by Network 18 Limited at the Auto Cluster Exhibition Centre in Pune. The event will provide a platform to the participants who will get a chance to trade with various businessmen and buyers from Western India. Over 250 exhibitors and 15,000 visitors are expected to visit the event.

Cultural news

Europalia.India.2013

After Russia, China and Brazil, India will finally have its Europalia season in Brussels in 2013. A 5 month long program of exhibitions, concerts, movies, dance and theatre that will give the Belgian public a unique opportunity to get to know Indian culture. Events will be organized not only in Brussels but in other parts of the country as well as in neighboring countries too.

Liège official candidate for International Exhibition 2017

Did you know that Liège was seeking the honor to welcome the 2017 International Exhibition? The Belgian authorities have started to campaign abroad to get the city elected for this major event that will attract tourists, business people and academics all together around the theme of **connectivity**. Explore www.liege-expo2017.com.

Agenda

Events to come

King's Day celebrations on 15th of November in Delhi and Mumbai

Don't miss the celebrations that will bring together the Belgian community of India and our Indian friends in Delhi and Mumbai! You will soon receive your invitation!

EU Sanskriti Festival

In November this year, the EU Embassies in Delhi are organizing a cultural week, called "EU Sanskriti Festival". With a special focus on children and youngsters, this festival will consist of a series of film screenings, art performances, story telling as well as a Kid's Mela.

Along with the French Speaking Community of Belgium, the Belgian Embassy will participate in the Sanskriti Festival with a dance performance of Théâtre Zététique. For more info, please visit www.dailymotion.com/video/xksa0c_ultra_creation and www.zetiquetheatre.be.

Belgian Film Festival in Chennai

On the 17th of October the Ambassador of Belgium will inaugurate the first Belgian Film Festival in Chennai. In cooperation with the Indo Cine Appreciation Foundation (ICAF), the following films will be screened over a period of 5 days: Loft, Christmas in Paris, Rumba, Une Chaîne Pour Deux, Hector and Les Barons. For more information, www.chennaifilmfest.com

Saint Nicolas

As every year, Saint Nicolas will come and visit your children around December 6 in Mumbai and in Delhi. You will receive more details about time and venue at a later stage. In the meantime, do not forget to write and send your letter to Saint Nicolas!

EBG-BLBA Event on Renewable Energy

In November 2011, the BLBA and the European Business Group plan an event on the Renewable Energy prospects in India for industrial users. More information will be published on the BLBA website: blbanewdelhi.org.

Past events

Belgian Beer Night

The first Belgian Beer Night has been organized in hotel Royal Windsor of Delhi on September 23. Organized by the Belgian Luxemburg Business Association, the event attracted a large crowd of Indians, Belgians and foreigners alike. An event to be repeated!

Visit of the Flemish Parliament

From 16th to 22nd September, a 14 member delegation of the Committee for culture, youth, sports & media of the Flemish Parliament visited the cities of Delhi, Chennai and Mumbai. The delegation had an interaction with their Indian counterparts of the Indian Parliament, and visited several institutions, active in the field of culture, sports and heritage.

“India WalloniaTech” Program 2011 (from 28th of August to 2nd of September 2011)

AWEX (the Wallonia Foreign Trade and Investment Agency) has successfully launched the first edition of the **“India WalloniaTech program”**. The goal of this new and innovative program is to identify the brightest entrepreneurial talent in India and connect these entrepreneurs with investors and strategic partners in Belgium and Europe in order to turn their innovations into a global success.

About 10 such innovative Indian enterprises with groundbreaking technologies were identified and invited to participate, at no cost, in a special programme in Wallonia. The companies are active in the following sectors: aquaculture equipment, medical device, renewable energy (wind, solar and biomass), temperature regulating apparel, waste and water disposal technology, software applications.

The program will be repeated in 2012 with a new batch of young Indian technology champions!

Activities of AWEX Delhi in the Sustainable development and Renewable Energy sectors 5th Renewable Energy India exhibition

The Wallonia Export and Investment Agency (AWEX) participated in **the 5th Renewable Energy India exhibition**, from 10 to 12 August 2011 in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, with an information booth. It was the second year in a row that AWEX participated in an exhibition in this particular sector.

At the fair, AWEX presented catalogues of more than 30 companies from the Region from all sectors of activity ranging from wind, solar, biomass to waste recycling.

The AWEX stand received a continuous flow of visitors. Personnel from AWEX were permanently present at the fair for distributing catalogues and fielding queries on the capabilities of the companies as well as the opportunities available in this sector in Wallonia and Belgium.

Cooperation between AWEX and EBTC (European Business and Technology Centre)

AWEX has recently been approved as one of the new shareholders of the European Business and Technology Centre (EBTC) in Delhi and will carry out joint activities with EBTC in 2012, in particular in the clean technology and renewable energy sectors.

Belgian diplomatic network in India

New faces at the Embassy and the Consulate General

Both the Embassy in Delhi as the Consulate General in Mumbai have known new arrivals and reinforcements this year.

In Delhi, the new Ambassador Mr Pierre Vaesen took up his functions last February. Having been posted in Tokyo and Bangkok, he already has a strong experience of Asia. At the political section, Mr Antoine Evrard took up his function of Minister Counselor, a new function that has been created to reinforce the diplomatic team. On the consular side, our colleague Anne-France Jamart left India for a new posting in Washington. She has been replaced by Mrs Cécile Thoen, Counselor and Consul. A new visa agent, Mr André De Groote, has arrived to replace Mrs Joséphine Nirwonagize who joined the Consulate General in Mumbai.

In Mumbai, the new Consul General has arrived on September 10. Mr Karl Van den Bossche replaces Jean-Joël Schittecatte who left for Istanbul. The Consul General's team is beefed up by a new posting of a 2nd consul, Mr Eduard van Kleunen, in charge of economic diplomacy. The consular team saw the arrival of two new visa agents. Next to Mrs Joséphine Nirwonagize coming from Delhi also Mrs Pinkey Ahluwalia joined in from Istanbul.

Belgian customs Officer in New Delhi

Werner Van der Cruyssen is a Belgian customs officer posted as attaché for customs matters at the Embassy. He coordinates various cooperation programs between the customs administrations in India and Belgium and is the point of contact for private companies wishing to do business in Europe through Belgium who have queries regarding customs procedures in Europe and the ways in which the customs department can facilitate their business. Belgian companies wishing to do business in India can contact him for general information on customs and phytosanitary procedures in India as well as for providing them with a point of contact in the administration in India for all customs related queries. He can best be reached via e-mail on werner.vandercruyssen@minfin.fed.be

Belgian way of life in India

Need a beer?

Yes, Belgian beer is available in India! Chimay, Duvel, Liefmans, Saison Dupont are available in most hotels, bars and restaurants but also in retail. In Delhi, check All Godrej Nature's Basket Stores, DSIIDC High Spirits Govt Liquor shops in Vasant Kunj (DLF Promenade Vasant Kunj, DLF Place Saket etc) and Spencers in Gurgaon. In Mumbai, they are available at Godrej Nature's Basket, Spencers, Haiko Supermarket, Tata Star Bazaar, Hypercity. In Pune, see Providore and Nature's Basket. In Bangalore and Calcutta, you will find them at Spencers. Cheers ! Beer Cafe at Ambience Mall (New Delhi, Vasant Kunj) is also an option.

Need chocolate?

That is going to be a more difficult exercise, as we haven't found many retail spots so far. Would you kindly help us? The only addresses we had registered were Neuhaus at Delhi's International Airport and Leonidas at Kemp's Corner, Mumbai. But we are on the right track, as a few weeks ago Belgian chocolatier and pâtissier Debailleul opened its first Indian store in Prabhadevi, Mumbai. Finally, even if you cannot buy it directly, be aware that in the best restaurants of Delhi and Mumbai the chocolate desert you will order will probably be made of Puratos chocolate.

Need breakfast?

Mumbai offers you the ultimate Belgian breakfast experience with its branch of Le Pain Quotidien. Opened in January this year and located at CSM Road near the Gateway of India you will find a fine collection of bread, pastry and other Belgian delicacies.

Consular news

Belgians in India – we are updating our database

A few weeks ago, a letter was sent to all registered Belgian nationals by which they were requested to send to the Embassy in New Delhi or the Consulate General in Mumbai their coordinates (address, phone number, e-mail address). The aim of this operation is to update our databases. Recent crises around the world have shown that many nationals forget to inform their

Embassy or Consulate about changes in their coordinates which, in case of an emergency, can have serious consequences.

We thank all those who have already reacted and we urge those who haven't (or those who haven't received this letter) to do so as soon as possible.

Biometrics in your passport

In 2004, Belgium was a forerunner in introducing electronic chips in its passports. These chips contained the passport holder's personal data, signature and photo. Now, **fingerprints** are the next step forward as they are also gradually being introduced. Belgians living in India and registered in Delhi or Mumbai will be informed of the starting date of the new procedure.

When, how and why?

Even though the basic principle remains unchanged, the new procedures and their consequences are slightly different depending on whether you live in Belgium or abroad.

New procedure abroad

When you apply, you will have to provide **4 types of information**, which will be integrated into the passport:

1. Your identity and nationality
2. The prints of 2 of your fingers, priority being given to the forefingers (as of age 12)
3. A photograph, that will be taken on site (as of age 6)
4. Your signature

The process for inputting biometric data is very fast. It takes just a few minutes to take your photo and fingerprints.

Your photo taken on site

You no longer have to bring a photo to apply for a passport. Our embassies and consulates are gradually being provided with the necessary equipment, at **no extra cost for you**.

The photo is taken directly at the embassy or consulate so that it meets stricter international criteria than previously. To give you an idea, only 39% of photos currently brought along for use in passports meet these standards.

Children

Children **under the age of six** do not have to be present in person to apply.

As of age 6, they are expected to be present in order to be photographed and to sign their passports.

More information on <http://Passeport.belgium.be>

Belgians in India - What are they doing here?

A Belgian girl in Calcutta

Céline is 28 years old and born in Nivelles. She already felt at 17, during a family trip to India, that something was up for her here! She came back after her studies for an 8 month round-trip that made her decide to come and settle down in January 2009. Master in Law from the FUNDP, UCL and KUB and specialized in intellectual property law, Céline enters the law firm Amarchand

Mangaldas in Delhi as a trainee. Some time later, she is contacted by a Belgian firm, Darts IP that is creating a database of intellectual property case law. They propose her to launch the Indian office and to manage it. « Definitely Mother India wants me to stay! », she thinks, accepting the offer. Since May 2010, she's set up in Calcutta, employs 15 people and works in partnership with various institutions (IIT Kharagpur, ORP Kolkata, Clairvolex Delhi etc).

But Céline does not stop there and decides in January this year to dedicate herself to the Indian Independent film production. She is today partner, producer and director of a production firm based in Calcutta, "Overdose Art". Their first documentary, "Love in India" has won the "National Award for Family Value". The last one, "GANDU" is currently touring around festivals around the world. Many other projects are awaiting! One of them is a Belgian-Indian coproduction.

Céline finds Calcutta thrilling! A city of culture! Missing something? Speculoos and Sirop de Liège, that she brings back each time she travels back to Belgium...

Golden Jubilee of Sister Jeanne



On 1st October 2011 Sister Jeanne Devos ICM celebrates her Golden Jubilee in Mumbai. Sister Jeanne was born in 1935 in Kortenaken in the Belgian Province of Brabant. After a short career as a teacher she joined the Missionary Sisters **of the Immaculate Heart of Mary** (Immaculati Cordis Mariae) in 1961 and in 1963 she left for India. Although she initially specialised in the education of the blind and the deaf she soon distinguished herself as a remarkable organizer, first in the student movement and later as the founder of the National Domestic Workers Movement. Domestic workers face serious workplace dangers: human trafficking, underpayment, beatings, sexual exploitation, child labor and forcible confinement. One of the latest victories of the N.D.W.M. is the approval in June of the International Labor Organization's **Convention 189 on Decent Work for Domestic Workers** by **183** countries, including India. India's domestic workers are hopeful that it will mean an improvement in their working conditions.

Sister Jeanne Devos has received several honorary distinctions and was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005. We wish her a joyful Golden Jubilee.

www.jeannedevos.org

www.ndwm.org

Belgian historical novel about Indian emperor Akbar the Great

Emperor Akbar the Great (1543-1605), a great proponent of tolerance and religious freedom for everyone, was probably the mightiest and certainly the most enlightened monarch of his time. Written as a series of posthumous letters from the great emperor to his rebellious son, the historical novel ***The Emperor's Writings*** ("Afscheid van de keizer" in Dutch) recounts the captivating and true story of Akbar's life and times. The Antwerp-born author, Dirk Collier (1956) is a board member of Janssen Pharmaceutica and several other companies and associations. His passion for Asian culture and history has been aroused as a result of his frequent travels throughout the continent.



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Ideas, comments, requests ? We looking forward to your feedback at newdelhi@diplobel.fed.be

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