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## Belgian News - January 2012 - Number 2

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

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### A Word from the Ambassador and the Consul General

Dear readers,

2011 has been an eventful year for Belgium and for our Embassy and our Consulate General in India. We will try to make this year an even better one.

Ending the year of 2011 on a positive note, Belgium has succeeded to form a new federal government led by our Prime Minister Mr. Elio Di Rupo. The government, a coalition of six parties, consists of thirteen ministers and six secretaries of state.

Turning to our own upcoming activities, we can already announce several initiatives, to make you feel at home and to deliver an even better service. More information is in the newsletter.

With this second edition of our newsletter, we wish you a successful and wonderful 2012!



**Pierre VAESEN | Karl VAN DEN BOSSCHE**  
Ambassador | Consul General

## Business news

### Minister-President Kris Peeters goes India

In November 2011, Minister-President Kris Peeters, who is heading the government of Flanders region of Belgium, led a business and press delegation to India.

During the heavy-loaded program, the Minister-President visited Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore and Chennai.

In Mumbai he participated in the World Economic Forum (WEF), and also visited a number of Flemish companies with a footprint in India. He also hosted a lunch for existing and potential investors, looking at Flanders region as a gateway to Europe.

The focus in Delhi was more on political contacts, in particular a session with the Indian Minister of Trade, Mr. Anand Sharma.

Both in Mumbai and Delhi, the Minister-President participated in the King's Day reception, hosted by the Consul General and the Ambassador.

In Bangalore, he visited a number of high-tech companies, and inaugurated a few more Flemish establishments.

The Chennai program was focussed on infrastructure projects and contacts. In this framework the Minister-President had a successful meeting with Mr. G.K. Vasan, the Honorable Minister of Shipping of India.

The overall evaluation, both by the Minister-President, participating companies, press and Indian hosts was very positive. The Minister-President stated that it won't take long before he's back in India!



Vlaamse overheid



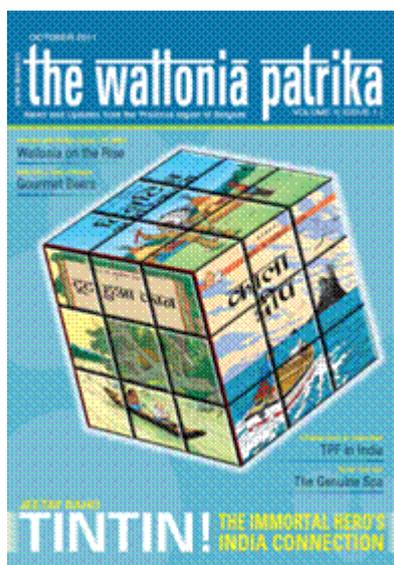
### Awex launches new website for Indian audience

AWEX, the economic development agency of the Wallonia region, has launched a [new website](#) principally designed for an Indian audience. On this website, the visitors will learn more about the activities of AWEX in India, the investment opportunities in Wallonia and other info related to business and tourism in the Region.



See new website: [www.awex.in](http://www.awex.in)

### The Wallonia Patrika



With great pride, AWEX released the very first issue of its new promotional magazine 'the Wallonia Patrika' on 15.10.2011.

As the name suggests, the magazine is particularly designed for an Indian audience. The goal is to propose a crisp and targeted communication medium to the Indian businesspeople outlining the Wallonia region's strength and potential. The magazine provides deep information through relevant interviews, case studies, features and updates. It showcases existing investors and collaborations, highlights export related information and experiences, promotes tourism and cultural programs in Wallonia, etc.

The magazine is printed in 2,000 copies and distributed to AWEX's key contacts in India.

If you would like to receive a print copy of the next edition, please complete the form on the AWEX website: <http://www.awex.in/wallonia-patrika>.

You can also download the latest issue, by clicking [here](#).

The next issue will feature "the Belgian glass" as the lead story. It will be published in February 2012.

### Horasis meeting 2012: destination Antwerp

During the visit of Minister-President Peeters, it was announced that the Horasis Global India Business Meeting will take place in Antwerp, on 24 and 25 June 2012. The purpose of this high-level conference and business forum is to discuss the challenges of India, as an up-and-coming economic power.

An Indian business delegation of about 300 Indian corporate figures, headed by Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Anand Sharma, is expected to participate in this event.

The Flemish government has budgeted 150,000 EUR to support this event.

More info [here](#).



### **Flanders @ Telecom India 2011**

Flanders Investments and Trade participated in [Telecom India](#), the telecom fair that took place in Delhi from 7 to 9 December 2011. Two Belgian companies, ServersCheck and Nomadesk, participated in the fair.

[ServersCheck](#) markets innovative solutions enabling its users to monitor, report and alert on the availability, performance of complete IT infrastructures. With their monitoring appliance mobile operators can detect virtually 100% of mobile service failures.

[Nomadesk](#) is a leading provider of cloud storage, file sharing and synchronization software that enables users to access, share, synchronize and safeguard files from any location, whether online or offline.



[www.indiatelecom.org](http://www.indiatelecom.org)

### **Brussels Airlines and Jet Airways join forces with Thalys to link their networks to the centre of Paris, via Brussels Airport**

Since 30.10.2011, passengers departing from Paris will be able to travel with Thalys to Brussels Airport, the city's international flight hub; from there they will be able to choose from numerous destinations offered by the two partner airlines, Brussels Airlines and Jet Airways.

A new stage in air-rail intermodality has just been completed. It is based on a completely new distribution system which makes air and rail data compatible. It is now possible to book a combined Thalys + Flight ticket between Paris and Kinshasa with Brussels Airlines or Paris to Delhi with Jet Airways from travel agencies or on the airlines' websites.

<http://web.brusselsairlines.com/pdf/ENG.pdf>



**BLBA**

On 17<sup>th</sup> November 2011, the Belgian-Luxembourg Business Association (BLBA) and the European Business Group (EBG) organised a successful seminar on renewable energy in India: 'Renewable Energy: Bringing Indian and European business together: Vision and Testimonials'. Dr Farooq Abdullah, the Union Minister of Renewable Energy, stressed the government ambitions and policy to boost the renewable energy sector in India to reach 15% of the electricity production by 2020. Enfinity and Vincke Forbes, two Belgian companies leading in the renewable energy sector in India, gave much appreciated testimonials of their experiences. The seminar was supported by the Embassy of Belgium, including FIT and AWEX.

On 11th January 2012 the BLBA held its Annual General Meeting at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi. 30 people attended the meeting, including the Ambassador of Belgium, HE Mr. Pierre Vaesen. Mr. Anil Anand, Managing Director of the Luxembourg company Paul Wurth India pvt. Ltd. was introduced as the new BLBA President until 31st March 2013. Vice-President Mr. P. Ratna Rao also announced that the treasurer position of Mr. Ravi Ailawadhi will be replaced by Mr. Rajiv Dhawan, Director at Magotteaux Industries.

Find out more [here](#) about the AGM outcomes and BLBA priorities for the year ahead.



Ambassador of Belgium Mr. Pierre Vaesen at the BLBA AGM, 11.01.2012

## IBLCCI

The Indo-Belgian-Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce and Industry is active since 1966 to promote commercial and economic relations between Belgium/Luxembourg and India. Recently a division of IBLCCI has been opened in Pune and Chennai complementary to the main seat in Mumbai.

Do you want to know more or apply for membership? Visit [www.iblcci.net](http://www.iblcci.net).

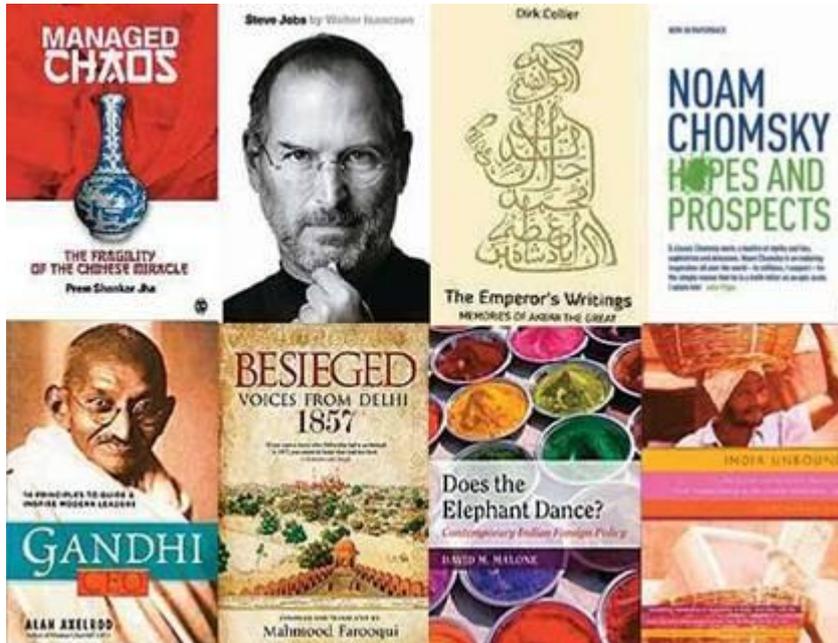


## Cultural news

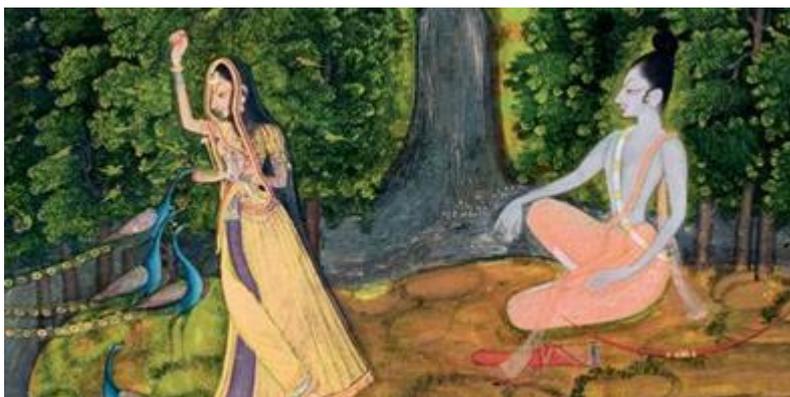
### The Emperor's Writings

India's popular magazine *Outlook* has ranked the novel *The Emperor's Writings* by Belgian author Dirk Collier among the best books of 2011 in India.

<http://www.outlookindia.com/article.aspx?279400>



### Belgian publishes prestigious edition of ancient Hindu epic



A 2000-page eight volume series on Valmiki's *Ramayana* has been released in 2011 in French.

The Belgian publisher Diane de Selliers was researching on the project since 1999.

One of the founding epics and a masterpiece of Indian literature, the *Ramayana* tells the story of the exemplary life of Prince Rama. Rama's profound wisdom, his generosity of heart and his supernatural power have made him into a legendary hero hallowed not only in India but throughout south Asia.

This edition brings together for the first time the whole epic of the *Ramayana* illustrated with six hundred and sixty Indian miniatures from the 16th to the 19th century.

The book has recently been launched in Paris and in New Delhi and has already earned extensive press coverage. The English edition is due in the coming months.



[www.ramayanabook.com](http://www.ramayanabook.com)

### **europalia.india**

End of last year, Belgium (Europalia International) and India began the preparations of *europalia.india*, a huge cultural festival on India which will kick off in autumn 2013 in Belgium.

Europalia International is an international non-profit association which organises a biennial festival since 1969 dedicated to the culture of a country or a cultural entity.

Today, the Europalia festivals are amongst the largest and most prestigious in Europe. Each festival attracts over one million visitors to around 500 prestigious cultural events, which take place in hundreds of cultural venues across Belgium and in neighbouring countries.

Watch future editions of this newsletter for more info on [europalia.india](http://europalia.india)!



[www.europalia.be](http://www.europalia.be)



ICCR President Karan Singh and Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff at official opening of *europalia.brasil* in Brussels on 04.10.2011

## Indian première: “*The Adventures of Tintin - The Secret of the Unicorn*”

The much-awaited 3D Motion Capture Film from Steven Spielberg “*The Adventures of Tintin: The Secret of the Unicorn*” was released in cinemas throughout India on 11 November 2011. Based on the series of books “*The Adventures of Tintin*” by the Belgian cartoonist Hergé, the film is co-produced by Steven Spielberg, Peter Jackson and Kathleen Kennedy.

To celebrate this launch, Sony Pictures India collaborated with the Embassy in New Delhi and the Consulate General in Mumbai to organise a dedicated première event on 7<sup>th</sup> November in both metros. Fans and celebrities mingled to see their hero in some spectacular 3D action.

In Mumbai, a nice glass of Belgian beer made the experience complete. The Consulate organized a raffle with some very real and special Tintin accessories – right from the Tintin store in Brussels!

In Delhi, Wallonia-Brussels Tourism and the Embassy of Belgium teamed up with Sony entertainment India and DLF Place Saket to offer a holiday for 2 to Belgium, the homeland of Tintin, and exclusive film merchandise.

*The Adventures of Tintin: The Secret of the Unicorn* has become India’s best performing animated film.



Official movie website: [www.tintin-movie.net](http://www.tintin-movie.net)

## Agenda

### Water in the focus @ DSDS 2012

On the sidelines of the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit, the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and the Flemish Institute for Technological Research (VITO) are organising a Special event on ‘Water: our global common’ that will be held in New Delhi (India Habitat Centre, Jacaranda Hall) on 31 January 2012 from 9.00am until 5.00pm. A complimentary buffet lunch will be provided.

This event will analyse the challenges and issues at stake linked with water worldwide and propose a starting point for the study of a truly integrated model for water production/treatment; water/waste treatment; and urban/rural development based on the fair use and exploitation of a commonly shared resource.

Please find here the [invitation](#) and [registration form](#).



### Tintin is coming to Delhi!

Belgium has more comic book authors per square kilometre than any other country in the world. Comic book art is part of the Belgian cultural heritage. In order to display this heritage, the Embassy is organising a cultural event on the Belgian comic book hero Tintin on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of February 2012 at Teen Murti Bhawan, Nehru Memorial, with the following activities:

- Screening of animated films on Tintin for school children, and underprivileged children from NGOs;
- A series of screenings of film documentaries and cartoons on Tintin;
- An exhibition of Tintin memorabilia and art;
- A panel discussion on Tintin and Hergé with eminent “Tintinophiles” such as Mr. Alain Baran, former collaborator of Hergé and Mr. Henri de Gerlache, director of one of the film documentaries.

Click [here](#) for the detailed programme.



### Wallonia @ PlastIndia 2012

February 2012 will be a very busy month for the AWEX team in India. The economic development agency of the Wallonia region of Belgium will organise no less than three pavilions of companies at three international exhibitions in India: Bio Asia 2012 in Hyderabad, from 9 to 11 February, SITL India in Mumbai, from 23 to 25 February, and PlastIndia 2012 in New Delhi, from 1 to 6 February 2012.

Six companies from Wallonia will exhibit at PlastIndia: Ateliers François (oil free PET compressors), BKS (knives for shredding and recycling), Lisam Systems (software solutions as per Reach, GHS and Clp regulations) Pierret Industries (Cutting Equipment for Recycling of Textile Fibres and Plastics), Sovitec (glass microbeads designed for horizontal road markings, impact treatment of surfaces, reinforcement of synthetic resins), and X-stream (software and engineering services company focused on multi-scale modeling of complex multi-phase composites materials and structures : PMC, RMC, MMC, nanocomposites, hard metals, ...).

# PLASTINDIA

## 2012 Infinite Opportunities

[www.plastindia.org](http://www.plastindia.org)

### **Mumbai: Belgian Gastronomic Week**

A very special event will rock Mumbai from 10 till 17 February: the Belgian Gastronomic Week! The Taj Mahal Palace Hotel and the Consulate General join forces to give India a taste of the delights of Belgian gastronomy. It will be a week filled with thematic lunches, dinners and business seminars at the beautiful setting of the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel. Belgian Chefs will work together with famous Taj Chef Hemant Oberoi to turn traditional Belgian ingredients into top-class dishes. Yes, Belgium is more than beer and chocolate!



### **Seminar: Belgium Top Logistics Location in Europe for Indian Exporters**

On 22 February, the Belgian-Luxembourg Business Association ([BLBA](#)) in partnership with [FIEO](#) and with the support of the [Embassy of Belgium](#), [AWEX](#) and [FIT](#), will organise an experts seminar on logistics in Belgium.

Belgium is already an important gateway to Europe for Indian goods. The EU is the biggest trading partner of India and Belgium is the second most important EU trading partner of India, after Germany and before the UK. The country lies at the heart of the biggest concentration of purchasing power of the world, and is world-renowned for its logistics facilities and expertise.

The seminar will give the opportunity to Indian exporters and logistics operators might to learn more about the advantages of using Belgium as a gateway to Europe.

For programme and registration, please contact Ms. Sonu Malik at [info@blbanewdelhi.org](mailto:info@blbanewdelhi.org)

More on Belgium's logistical assets:

[http://business.belgium.be/en/investing\\_in\\_belgium/key\\_sectors/transport\\_and\\_logistics/](http://business.belgium.be/en/investing_in_belgium/key_sectors/transport_and_logistics/)



## Saint Nicolas stops over in Mumbai

All children look forward to the beginning of December when Saint Nicolas (Sinterklaas) is coming. Saint Nicolas didn't forget Mumbai on his trip, where on 4<sup>th</sup> December he welcomed the children at the Mahalaxmi Racecourse with the help of the Dutch-Belgian Club. All children had been good this year so they were rewarded with some wonderful gifts!



## Consular news

### Biometric Passport Launched in Mumbai

From 15 February onwards the Belgian Consulate General in Mumbai will start issuing biometric passports. Our previous newsletter already explained what biometric passports are and why we need them. One of the most important changes is that from 15 February onwards Belgian citizens requiring a new passport will need to apply **in person** at the Consulate. However several alternatives are available. For more information please click: <http://passport.belgium.be/>

The Embassy in New Delhi will start issuing biometric passports at a later date. We will keep you informed.



### New website on social security issues for foreigners moving to Belgium

From now on, people coming to Belgium to live, work or study will be able to discover the social security regulations that apply to them with just a few mouse clicks.

Thanks to the '[Coming2Belgium](#)' tool, which is available on the social security portal site, anyone will immediately obtain the information matching his/her profile.

This tool has been developed by the Federal Public Service (FPS) Social Security and the Crossroads Bank for Social Security (CBSS). It is based on a very simple principle: the user only has to click on his nationality, his country of origin and his status as well as on the desired criterion (e.g. family allowances, pensions, reimbursement of medical expenses, incapacity for work, payment of social contributions, ...) to obtain right away the information that applies to his/her specific situation.

'Coming2Belgium' has been designed for foreigners who want to live for a long period in Belgium and for Belgian citizens who come back to their own country after a long stay abroad. This includes employed persons, self-employed persons, civil servants, frontier workers, posted workers, pensioners, students, etc.

This tool has not been designed for persons who come to Belgium for holidays or for a short stay.

In 2010, a similar tool, named 'Leaving Belgium', had already been launched on the social security portal site. This tool is designed for Belgian citizens who want to leave their country to live, work or study abroad.



### **Fast Track visa**

The Consulate General in Mumbai is proud to announce that it will soon make its visa application procedures even smoother for selected companies with clearly established links in and with Belgium. The fast track procedure will allow selected companies to benefit from a faster and lighter procedure requiring less paperwork, while ensuring optimal security in the visa handling process.

More information will soon be announced in this newsletter.



### **Belgians in India**

#### **Madeleine de Blic-Herman**

Belgian social worker Madeleine de Blic-Herman founded the organisation 'Volontariat en Inde' in

1962. This non-profit organisation based in Pondicherry is aiming at providing a job to the poor, mostly leprosy patients and physically or mentally handicapped persons. One of the main activities of the now 140 employees is weaving and marketing fabrics.

In February Mrs. De Blic-Herman, originally from Liège, will be celebrated in India for her 50 years of work for the poor in Southern India. Guest of honour will be Mr. Abdul Kalam, former President of India. We gladly join in congratulating Mrs. De Blic-Herman for her inspiring work!



See more: <http://volontariat-inde.org>

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Ideas, comments, requests ? We looking forward to your feedback at [newdelhi@diplobel.fed.be](mailto:newdelhi@diplobel.fed.be)

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