



KONINKRIJK BELGIË  
ROYAUME DE BELGIQUE  
KÖNIGREICH BELGIEN



## Belgian News - December 2012 - Number 5

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

### Table of contents

- [A Word from the Ambassador and the Consul General](#)
- [Belgian diplomatic network in India](#)
- [Political Highlights](#)
- [Business News](#)
- [Cultural News](#)
- [Academic News](#)
- [Consular News](#)
- [Belgians in India](#)
- [Agenda for 2013](#)

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

Dear readers,

While 2012 has been an eventful year for all of us, 2013 will be even busier!

Check out our agenda in this newsletter to learn more about our next important events for 2013 with in particular the [europalia.india](#) festival to start in October and the princely economic mission to India in November.

But for now, we just want to wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year and we hope to meet many of you in 2013!



**Pierre VAESEN**  
*Ambassador*

**Karl VAN den BOSSCHE**  
*Consul General*

## Belgian diplomatic network in India

### New Trade Commissioner at the Embassy



Christophe Van Overstraeten, Trade Commissioner for Wallonia, has arrived in India in November. He is the successor of Jean-Pierre Muller at the AWEX representation in New Delhi.

Welcome to Christophe!

- > Christophe can be contacted at [newdelhi\[at\]awex.in](mailto:newdelhi[at]awex.in)
- > Meet [here](#) the full Embassy staff

### Celebrating King's Day in Mumbai



On 1 November the Consulate General in Mumbai celebrated its annual King's Day Reception.

The date had been advanced this year in order to welcome Geert Bourgeois, Vice-Minister-President of the Flemish Government, and Cathy Berx, Governor of the Province of Antwerp, as special guests.

For the first time the event was held at the rooftop of the residence of the Consul General, ensuring a spectacular view and a cool sea breeze.

Belgian food and beer together with a local American/Belgian jazz band completed the picture.

## Running for the good cause



On Sunday 30 September, two members of the Belgian Embassy, Jochen Anthierens and Antoine Delcourt, participated in the Airtel Delhi Half Marathon. Besides their personal motives to participate, they ran for a good cause: the Drydan Social Welfare Society & Opus III. The Indian Drydan Social Welfare Society and the Belgian NGO Opus III joined hands in 1998 to provide education for underprivileged children and families in Jaipur.

After 14 years, the two associations are running the Drydan Public School, 4 Fun & Child Schools, a hospital as well as a hostel for students and volunteers. Moreover, the associations also support a microfinance project, managed by a self help group for women in the Hasanpura district of Jaipur.

Thanks to the generous contribution of several sponsors, funds were raised to buy a new water cooling system for one of the schools funded by the NGOs.

## Political Highlights

### Flemish Tourism Minister leads mission to India



Minister Geert Bourgeois & Peter De Wilde, Administrator-General Tourism Flanders-Brussels

From 25 October to 1 November, Flemish Minister of Tourism Geert Bourgeois was on an official visit to New Delhi and Mumbai, accompanied by a Flemish delegation, to strengthen ties between Flanders and the important foreign market of India. With the Indian Minister for Tourism, Minister Bourgeois discussed ways to increase tourist flows between Belgium and India and opportunities for collaboration on the centenary commemorations of World War I, which will start in 2014. In Delhi, the Minister also met with senior officials of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). In Mumbai, Minister Bourgeois met with the Governor of Maharashtra K. Sankaranarayanan and with executives of the Bharat Diamond House and Jet Airways. The Minister and his delegation also had fruitful contacts with representatives of the tourist and cinema sectors, specialised media and the larger Mumbai business community.

> <http://www.vlaanderen.be/int/en/news/minister-tourism-bourgeois-leads-mission-india>

> <http://www.visitflanders.in>

> <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/tourism-flanders-steps-up-marketing-efforts-in->

## **New Ambassador at the Indian Embassy in Brussels**



Shri Dinkar Khullar, Ambassador of India to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union, took his functions in Belgium in September after holding the role of Ambassador of India in Baku (Azerbaijan), Sofia (Bulgaria) and Vienna (Austria). Ambassador Khullar obtained a Master's degree from the Delhi School of Economics and has been a lecturer in Economics before joining the Indian Foreign Service in 1978. Mr. Khullar previous positions were at the Indian embassies of Moscow, Rome and Seoul, at the Ministry of External Affairs, Ministries of Finance and Commerce and in the Office of the Prime Minister in India. He was the head of the Africa, West Europe and Administration Divisions in the Ministry of External Affairs and the Permanent Representative of India to UN Offices and international Organisations in Vienna.

*Warm welcome to Shri Dinkar Khullar in our country!*

> <http://www.indembassy.be>

## **Business News**

### **Jet Airways cancels its Brussels-Chennai flight**



In November 2012 Jet Airways has cancelled its daily direct flight between Chennai and Brussels, due to economic reasons. This cancellation follows the end of the connecting Jet Airways flight between Brussels and New York JFK in September this year. Nevertheless four Jet Airways flights to Brussels remain: from Delhi, Mumbai, New York-Newark and Toronto.

> More info: [www.jetairways.com](http://www.jetairways.com)

### **Antwerp businessmen visit India**



A business delegation from VOKA Antwerp-Waasland, the chamber of commerce from the Antwerp region, visited India from 1 to 7 November. The delegation was headed by Cathy Berx, Governor of the Province of Antwerp, and visited Mumbai, Delhi and Agra.

The Antwerp business leaders were able to meet numerous Indian counterparts from different sectors. In Delhi, the delegation interacted with Indian businessmen at a seminar organised in partnership with CII. The governor also opened a new faculty of DY Patil University in Pune. It was undoubtedly a useful trip to explore cooperation and business opportunities between our countries. Antwerp is the most important economic cluster and the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest port in Europe. It is also the world's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest chemical cluster after Houston and the most important diamond centre in the world.

> More info: [www.voka.be/eng](http://www.voka.be/eng)

#### Flanders launches fund to attract foreign films



Flanders has launched the new Screen Flanders fund, designed to attract international film producers. The fund will provide loans up to a maximum of EUR 400.000 to foreign production houses that film in Flanders and has an annual budget of 5 million Euros. It follows the example of the Wallimage fund of the Walloon Region and will reinforce the trend of more and more foreign films and TV series being shot in Belgium. This is also thanks to the federal government's favourable tax regulation, allowing a tax rebate of up to 150% to audiovisual investments involving a Belgian production house. So perhaps we will soon see a first Bollywood movie made in Belgium!

> More info: <http://www.locationflanders.be/production-guide/financing-and-incentives/new-screen-flanders/>

#### AWEX outlines investment opportunities for Indian companies



> More info: [mumbai@awex.in](mailto:mumbai@awex.in)

In its quarterly programme of investment attraction to Belgium-Walloon Region, AWEX Mumbai (Wallonia Foreign Trade & Investment Agency) has held two seminars with Indian companies:

- ▶ Chennai, 16 to 18 November 2012, Auto Serve Exhibition, automotive sector;
- ▶ Pune, 7 to 9 December 2012, India Logistics Show, logistics sector;

Other events planned in the coming weeks include:

- ▶ Ahmedabad, 8 to 13 January 2013, AWEX Stand at Vibrant Gujarat exhibition, multiple sectors; with on Friday 11 January at 16:00h the seminar "Wallonia, Belgium: your single entry point to the European markets";
- ▶ Bangalore, 6 to 10 February 2013, Aero India 2013 exhibition.

### New investments in India and in Belgium



Investments of Indian companies in Belgium, but also of Belgian companies in India, are booming! Here are some recent outstanding examples:

- ▶ Indian company Rain Commodities acquired Belgian Rutgers NV for an amount of EUR 702 million. Rutgers manufactures coal tar pitch for the aluminium and steel industry. It is one of the largest Indian foreign investments this year;
- ▶ JPFL, part of Jindal Group, has bought ExxonMobil's BOPP global film division, including a chemical plant in Belgium (see also article below);
- ▶ Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and HCL Technologies are in discussions with Belgian bank KBC to buy the latter's offshore information technology division based in Chennai. The deal could be worth up to USD 25 million;
- ▶ Verlinvest, a Belgian investment company held by the families behind AB InBev, has taken a stake of around 10% in India's Future Ventures for approximately EUR 17.5 million. Future Ventures is a private equity fund with several fashion and food brands in its portfolio. This follows two earlier investments in India by Verlinvest.

### Soudal inaugurates top class production facility in Haryana



Soudal is the leading European manufacturer of chemical (building) specialties such as adhesives, sealants, PU foams, moisture-repellents and technical products for both professional and private use. In 2011, Soudal employed around 1.450 people around the world, enabling it to break through the EUR 400 million turnover mark. Of this, more than 90% is from outside the Benelux area.

Products are exported to more than 110 different countries including 37 branches of their own. Soudal is a tip-top family firm, which is still being run by its founder Vic Swerts after more than 45 years.

In India Soudal has entered into a joint venture with McCoy, a company established in 1996. During her visit to India in November, the Governor of Province of Antwerp Ms. Cathy Berx proudly inaugurated the McCoy Soudal factory at Bawal near Delhi.



> <http://www.mccoysoudal.com>

### Jindal Poly purchases Latour plant in Virton



At the end of October, Jindal Poly Films Ltd. (JPFL), part of the INR 30 billion Jindal Group, acquired the Latour plant in Virton (Province of Luxembourg, Belgium). The Latour plant was previously owned by American multinational Exxon Mobil. The plant specialises in the manufacturing of plastic films. According to Latour, the jobs of the 450 people employed on site are safe for at least 12 months. The trade unions of the site hope that the purchase of the site will entail a new era of dynamism. The acquisition is part of JPFL's purchase of Exxon Mobil's biaxially oriented polypropylene (BOPP) global films business. The deal also involves two manufacturing sites in the USA, one in the Netherlands, and one in Italy.

> [www.jindalpoly.com](http://www.jindalpoly.com)

### Bringing high-tech carpets to India



No doubt you are aware that most of the world's diamonds are exported from Belgium... but did you know that Belgium is also the world's largest exporter of carpets? Belgian carpets are known in India for decades but this reputation has now found new heights thanks to the Belgian Company modulyss (part of the Balta group). The company, which has partnered with the Indian company CCIL, has recently won a contract to carpet the Kolkata International airport, the fifth busiest airport in the country in terms of overall passenger traffic.

Last October, in association with Flanders Investment & Trade, modulyss-CCIL organised a networking dinner at the Belgian Ambassador's residence which was a fantastic opportunity to link up with some of the brightest architects, interior designers and project developers of the country.

### Belgian ideas for Mumbai's urban development



On 2 November Chris Poulissen of Ney/Poulissen architecture & engineering presented his plans for sustainable urban development of the greater Mumbai area. His visionary presentation was attended by Governor of Antwerp Cathy Berx and representatives from Indian authorities and businesses. Ney/Poulissen designed the main bridge of the Oosterweel-link in Antwerp and is involved in various projects in Thane, near Mumbai. Now it stands ready to make an important Belgian contribution to the huge development challenges in India's largest metropolitan city.

> More info: [www.ney.be](http://www.ney.be)

### New IBLCCI Governing Council and President



On 24 September the Annual General Meeting of the Indo-Belgian-Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce & Industry (IBLCCI) took place in Mumbai. At this occasion a new Governing Council and a new President have been installed. Karl De Borger, CEO of the Antwerp Diamond Bank in Mumbai, has taken over the IBLCCI-presidency from Xerxes Master. He will be supported by two vice-presidents, Firoz Kachwalla and Jos Hulsbosch. We would like to thank Xerxes Master for his excellent work and welcome Karl De Borger and his new team!

IBLCCI also has added another regional chapter so that it is now represented, next to Mumbai, in Pune, Chennai but also Ahmedabad. On 11 January the new Ahmedabad chapter will organise its first event in collaboration with FIT and AWEX at the occasion of the Vibrant Gujarat exhibition.

> More info: [www.iblcci.net](http://www.iblcci.net); [iblcci08@gmail.com](mailto:iblcci08@gmail.com)

## Leonidas opens its second store in Mumbai



Chocolate lovers, rejoice! Leonidas, the famous Belgian praline-maker, opened its second Indian store on 22 October. It is located in Santacruz, in the north of Mumbai. This opening follows the first Leonidas store near Kemps Corner, also in Mumbai.

> More info: [www.leonidasindia.com](http://www.leonidasindia.com)

## Did you know that...



... Brussels Airport is known to be the number one seller of chocolates around the world with more than 800 tons per year!

> More info: [www.skysshops.be](http://www.skysshops.be); <http://www.brusselsairport.be>

## Cultural News

### South India through Belgian eyes



A photo exhibition 'Southern spirituality - many faces' was held from 16<sup>th</sup> till 30<sup>th</sup> of October by the Belgian photographer Virginie Vlamincq in the Hilton, Chennai. The photographer has more than 30 years of experience behind her camera and took pictures of every place she travelled. Virginie moved to Chennai with her husband a year ago and has taken pictures of the new life around her including the colours, the sounds and the feelings of the people's daily routine in temples. The exhibition represented the spiritual's life of the southern Indian citizens.

> More info [here](#)

### Rocking Delhi, the Belgian way



Belgian electro-rock band from Ghent Vive la Fête performed on the 14<sup>th</sup> November in Delhi. The band was on tour for the months of November and December, coming from Brazil, passing by New Delhi, Germany and the Netherlands.

> More info: <http://www.vivelifete.be>

### Violonist Hans Vermeersch in India



Hans Vermeersch has performed in Delhi on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> October on the occasion of the Delhi International Art Festival at the India Habitat Centre. He then joined the Virasat Cultural Festival 2012 on the 1<sup>st</sup> November in Dehradun. Hans Vermeersch was born in Knokke in 1957, he is married to Finla from the state of Kerala and they have one daughter. Mr. Vermeersch is a violinist, teacher, composer, conductor and leader of the Rajhans Orchestra.

> More info: <http://users.telenet.be/rajhans.orchestra>

### Europalia India, festival of encounters



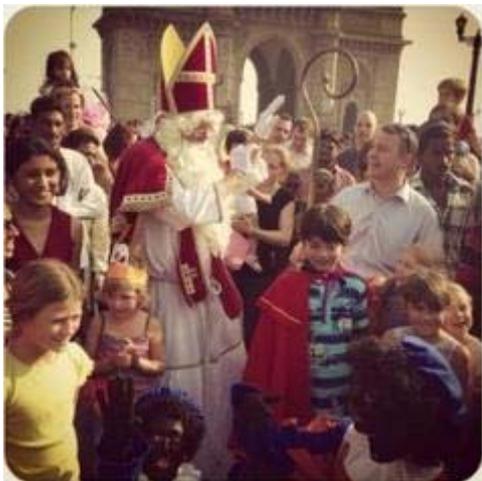
For its 24<sup>th</sup> biennial, Europalia International will bring India to the heart of Europe. During 4 months you can discover this mysterious and fascinating country, where different cultures meet, interact and bring about a unique creativity.

Starting on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2013, [europalia.india](http://europalia.india) will translate India's immense cultural wealth into a multidisciplinary programme comprising exhibitions, concerts, dance and theatre performances, conferences, cinema and literature events. Europalia recently presented a

preliminary outline of the programme of europalia.india. The festival main theme will be *Encounters* and its seven sub-themes will be *Body, Indomania, India Tomorrow, Living Traditions, Water, Bollywood & beyond* and *Diaspora*. The two main exhibitions of the festival, which will take place at Centre for Fine Arts in Brussels, will be *The Body in Indian Art* and *Indomania*. In the meantime, YOU can also be a part of the festival and participate in the exciting photo contest Indomaniacs!

> More info: <http://www.europalia.be>

### Sinterklaas arrived in Mumbai!



Before touring in Europe, Saint Nicolas or Sinterklaas was in India with its bag full of sweets and gifts for the brave children. The Holy Man arrived by boat at the Gateway of India with the help of the Dutch-Belgian club in Mumbai. This spectacular scene did not go by unnoticed both for the children and the Mumbaikers present! Luckily all children have been good this year so Sinterklaas handed them over some wonderful presents at the Yacht Club.

> More info: <http://nederlandsbelgischeclubmumbai.com>

### Mumbai gallery hosts talented Belgian artists



Four talented young Belgian artists are currently on show in Maskara Gallery in Mumbai. The theme around which they created their work is '*Are the limits of my language the limits of my world?*'. This unique expo, supported by the Consulate General, takes place in the framework of a partnership between Maskara Gallery and gallery Geukens & De Vil, located in Antwerp and Knokke. In return young Indian artists will exhibit their work in Belgium end 2013.

The expo is running until 29 December 2012.

> More info: [www.gallerymaskara.com](http://www.gallerymaskara.com)  
and [www.geukensdevil.com](http://www.geukensdevil.com)



### Belgian-Australian singer Gotye to perform in India for the first time



Belgian-Australian singer Gotye will perform a live show in Delhi on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2013, bringing feature songs from his 3 studio albums (*Boardface*, *Like drawing Blood* and *Making Mirrors*) to his Indian fans for the first time. Tickets out on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Venue: The Blue Frog.

> [www.gotye.com](http://www.gotye.com)  
> [www.bluefrog.co.in](http://www.bluefrog.co.in)

### Antwerp dance group to give unique performance at Bangalore festival

attakkalari INDIA BIENNIAL 2013



The Antwerp-based dance & music group *Eastman* will come to India for the first time and present their show *Glimpses* on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2013 in Bangalore. The show is part of the *Attakkalari India Biennial*, South Asia's largest international contemporary dance and movement arts festival.

> <http://www.east-man.be>

> <http://www.attakkalaribiennial.org>

### Brussels Christmas Market



Created in 2002 at the initiative of the City of Brussels, Winter Wonders has unrelentingly spared no effort ever since to enhance its appeal among the Belgian and foreign public visiting the country's capital.

Famous by now, the 2-km Christmas concourse in the heart of our magnificent capital will get us dreaming this year again with its unique atmosphere, quality activities, varied culinary specialties, discoveries of other worlds, enchanting lights, etc.

Alongside traditional features (skating rink, merry-go-rounds, big wheel...) that have turned Winter Wonders into an internationally renowned event not to be missed, this year's edition will boast several new attractions.

> More info [here](#)

### Ongoing exhibitions in Belgium



## Historium

Did you ever wonder what life was like during the Middle Ages? How people lived? How it smelled? How the famous artist Jan Van Eyck painted his masterpieces? What the feasts were like? The magnificent exhibition 'Historium' in Bruges will take you back to the past, to the year 1435 more precisely, and give you all the answers. An unforgettable experience!

> [www.historium.be](http://www.historium.be)

## The Mannerist landscape in the sixteenth century

Venue: Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium - Brussels  
Till 14.01.2013

> <http://www.fine-arts-museum.be>



Joachim Patenier, J. Geleyns ©RMSKB

## Jordaens and the Antique

Venue: Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium - Brussels  
Till 28.01.2013

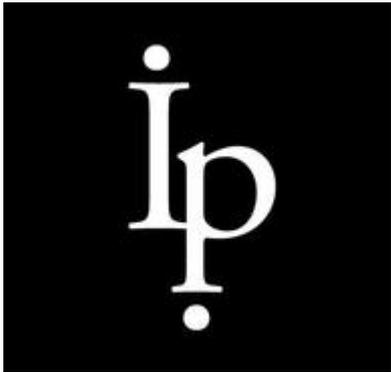
> <http://www.fine-arts-museum.be>



Jordaens, © Madrid, Museo Nacional del Prado

## Academic News

**Ghent University brings academic cooperation with India to new level**



Since 2008 [Ghent University](#) has been developing the [India Platform](#) to further academic cooperation with India. The India Platform brings together several European and Indian universities, hospitals and companies. To bring this cooperation to a new level, a delegation headed by Ghent University Rector Prof. Paul Van Cauwenberge signed a [stakeholders' agreement](#) on 3 November in Bangalore to include four more partners in the Platform. The platform then moved to Chennai where it launched the exciting [Svaagata](#) exchange programme.

This project, funded by the European Union's [Erasmus Mundus](#) programme, will in the next four years enable 116 Indian students and researchers to come to Ghent or several other European universities.

Finally, the platform and its partners from Mangalore organised the fourth edition of the 5-year conference cluster [Rethinking Religion in India: Secularism, Religion and Law](#) which saw fascinating discussions between Indian and European scholars around the central question "Are the descriptions of the Indian culture and its traditions the products of the Western experience of India?".



## Consular News

### India now allows Belgian expats early withdrawal from Providence Fund



A new government notification allows expats from the eight countries with which India has a Social Security Agreement, including Belgium, to withdraw their provident funds before turning 58. This now can be done upon the completion of their assignment in India. This will benefit Belgian expats in India who have contributed to the Providence Fund before getting exempted when the Social Security Agreement with Belgium entered into force on 1 September 2009.

> More info [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)

### India eases tourist visa requirements



India has adapted its policy regarding tourist visa. Whereas since the Mumbai terror attacks in 2008 it used to be necessary to leave a two month-gap between two tourist visas, this requirement has now been dropped. The reason behind this decision is to attract more tourists to India. Up to October this year India has witnessed 5.219.000 foreign tourist arrivals, a slight increase, but its potential remains high as the country's share of international tourist arrivals in 2011 was a mere 0.64%.

> More info: [www.indembassy.be/visa\\_information.html](http://www.indembassy.be/visa_information.html)

### Biometric Passports for Belgians



Since 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2012 the Belgian Embassy in New Delhi has started issuing biometric passports for Belgian citizens.

While this new procedure was already in place for Belgians registered at the Consulate General in Mumbai, from now on Belgian citizens registered at the Embassy in New Delhi (from North of India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Maldives) and requiring a new passport will need to apply **in person** and **upon appointment** at the Embassy. For those Belgians who have a valid passport, their passport will remain valid until its expiry date; it does not need to be changed.

For more information please check <http://passport.belgium.be/> or contact the consular sections of the Embassy: [newdelhi\[at\]diplobel.fed.be](mailto:newdelhi[at]diplobel.fed.be) or of the Consulate General: [mumbai\[at\]diplobel.fed.be](mailto:mumbai[at]diplobel.fed.be)

### Belgians in India

#### Father Bogaert – a life for social development in rural India



Father Michael Van Den Bogaert was born in 1928 in Willebroek, Belgium. Inspired by his maternal uncle, a Jesuit working with the tribal in Jharkhand, he joined the novitiate of the Jesuits in 1947 and left for India in 1951. Michael Van Den Bogaert learnt classical studies on Indian civilization and culture, sociology, theology, Sanskrit and Hindi, and was reading the "Bhagwat Gita" during his free time. After his studies in theology, Father Van Den Bogaert was ordained priest in 1961 and offered his service to the poor in the rural areas. He created centres for higher studies with three institutions of higher education in central and eastern India: Xavier Institute of Social Service Ranchi (XISS), Xavier Institute of Management Bhubaneswar (XIMB) and Xavier Institute of Development Action and Studies Jabalpur (XIMJ).

M. Van den Bogaert was one of the last of the long and distinguished line of foreign Christian missionaries who have devoted their lives to India. Father Bogaert gave his whole life to the poor of India, and in particular to the so-called "tribal" people who are marginalized even from the caste system. His dream project was the resettlement and rehabilitation of the Bargi Dam victims in Madhya Pradesh. Father Bogaert left us in 2009 but the present XIMJ director, Dr. Fr. Ranjit Tigga S.J., has accomplished his wishes and has now established an Integrated Tribal Development Project in one of the clusters in Bargi Dam area. Dr. Van den Bogaert has received several awards from the people of India such as the Birsa Munda Award in 1983.

### Belgian-Indian restaurant in Chennai



Lydie Vranken is from Limburg, Belgium. She lives in India for eight years now and loved every minute of it. She is married to Abdulla and they have a restaurant called 'Lydie's' in Chennai on the scenic ECR. They opened five years ago with a menu consisting of authentic continental and South Indian dishes, vegetarian and non-vegetarian. Of course they serve the Belgian stalwarts 'Steak-friet' and 'Kip-friet' with their own set of four home made 'sauces' and mayo. As they are living next to the Bay of Bengal they get their fish and seafood daily still dripping seawater!

Their desserts made with Belgian chocolate have gained a nice little reputation. Abdulla cooks the recipes from his family's traditions and Lydie makes her own as well as family recipes like her ma's waffles. They enjoy introducing people from east and west to each others' cuisines. When you are in Chennai, don't miss a visit to this unique restaurant!

> More info [here](#)

### Belgian wins Indian photo contest





Douglas Vanherpe, a Belgian amateur photographer based in Delhi, has won the 1<sup>st</sup> Prize with his picture named 'Double Cow' at the 15<sup>th</sup> edition of the Beautiful India Expatriate Photo competition organised by the Culturama magazine.

Over 670 photographs from 70 expat participants from 21 countries made this year's competition.

> See all winning photographs [here](#).

### Sister Jeanne Devos again distinguished in India

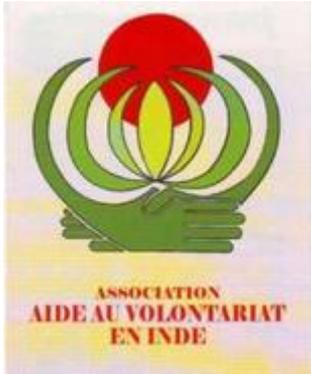


In September, Sister Jeanne Devos received the 28<sup>th</sup> Priyadarshni Global Award from the Priyadarshini Academy, Mumbai, for her work on the protection and rights of domestic workers. Sister Devos came to India as a missionary in 1963 and founded the National Domestic Workers Movement, Children in Domestic Work and the National Forum for Migrant Workers' Rights. She played an active role in securing recognition for domestic workers at the international level by the UN, which declared unpaid domestic work as a contemporary form of slavery; in recognition of children in domestic work as one of the four worst forms of child labour by ILO; and in a ban on employment of children in domestic work by government officials in India.

Doctor Honoris Causa of the University of Leuven, Sister Jeanne Devos was proposed for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005. She is also an honorary citizen of the city of Leuven. In 2009, Jeanne Devos has been honoured by the Belgian government with the Grand-Cross in the Order of the Crown.



### Volontariat celebrates its Golden Jubilee



Volontariat, based in Pondicherry, celebrated its Golden Jubilee this year in India as well as in Belgium. On 8 June Dr. Abdul Kalam, Former President of India, was among the Volontariat family. A similar function was held in Liège on 20 October.

Volontariat is a non-political, non-sectarian and non-profit organization established in 1962 by Madeleine Herman-de Blic, a social worker from Belgium.

At present, the main activities of Volontariat include: education of 1900 children through sponsorship; employment to cure leprosy afflicted persons; managing employment training units (carpentry, screen printing, book binding, embroidery, ...); running old age homes and homes for street children; micro-credit for women from deprived families; financial contribution for hut renovation and permanent housing.



> More info: [www.volontariat-inde.org](http://www.volontariat-inde.org)

### Meeting Belgians in Pune



On 6 December the Consul General and Consul met the small but active Belgian community in Pune. It was an excellent occasion to get to know a little better the Belgians living in this important and rapidly growing economic and education centre, 150 km from Mumbai. The Belgian beers certainly helped break the ice!

### Agenda for 2013

11-13 January	Ahmedabad	Participation in 'Vibrant Gujarat'
---------------	-----------	------------------------------------

31 January	Chennai	Official opening Brussels Trade Office
4-6 February	Bangalore	Participation in 'India Bio'
6-10 February	Bangalore	Participation in 'Aero India'
10-12 February	Chennai	Indo-European Food and Health Conference
20-27 March	New Delhi (+ Chandigarh & Pondicherry tbc)	Semaine de la Francophonie - Visit of Belgian author Nicolas Ancion
2-4 April	Bangalore	India Platform/UGent Matchmaking event
2-4 May	New Delhi	Participation in 'India Warehousing Show'
12-14 September	New Delhi	Participation in 'Renewable Energy India'
4 October	Brussels	Official opening Europalia India
End November	India	Princely Economic Mission

<p><b>Embassy of Belgium in New Delhi</b>  50-N Shantipath, Chanakyapuri  New Delhi - 110021  Tel: +91 11 42 42 80 00  Fax: +91 11 42 42 80 02  E-mail: <a href="mailto:newdelhi@diplobel.fed.be">newdelhi@diplobel.fed.be</a>  Web: <a href="http://www.diplomatie.be/newdelhi">www.diplomatie.be/newdelhi</a></p>	<p><b>Consulate General of Belgium in Mumbai</b>  Avantha House, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  Dr. Annie Besant Road, Worli  Mumbai - 400 030  Tel: +91 22 2421 2115 / 2436 1602 / 2430 5186  Fax: +91 22 2436 1420  Email: <a href="mailto:mumbai@diplobel.fed.be">mumbai@diplobel.fed.be</a>  Web: <a href="http://www.diplomatie.be/mumbai">www.diplomatie.be/mumbai</a></p>
---	---

If you do not wish to receive our newsletter in the future, or any socio-cultural information from the Embassy or the Consulate General, let us know by sending us an e-mail to [newdelhi@diplobel.fed.be](mailto:newdelhi@diplobel.fed.be) with as subject title "unsubscribe".

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

*Email not displaying correctly? [Read this newsletter online](#)*