



## Belgian News - February 2014 - Number 7

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

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## HIGHLIGHTS

### *Elections 2014*

At the end of May 2014 elections will be held in Belgium. As a Belgian registered at the Embassy or Consulate General you have been informed regarding the voting procedures and modalities when you are living abroad. If you have preregistered correctly, you will be able to vote on Wednesday 21 May in the Embassy of Belgium in New Delhi and at the Consulate General of Belgium in Mumbai.



More info:

[http://diplomatie.belgium.be/nl/Diensten/Diensten\\_in\\_het\\_buitenland/Deelname\\_aan\\_verkiezingen/](http://diplomatie.belgium.be/nl/Diensten/Diensten_in_het_buitenland/Deelname_aan_verkiezingen/) (in Dutch)  
[http://diplomatie.belgium.be/fr/Services/services\\_a\\_letranger/participation\\_aux\\_elections/](http://diplomatie.belgium.be/fr/Services/services_a_letranger/participation_aux_elections/) (in French)

## Belgian Economic Mission to India



D. Reynders, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium and Her Royal Highness Princess Astrid of Belgium

From November 23<sup>th</sup> till November 30<sup>th</sup> 2013 Her Royal Highness Princess Astrid of Belgium led a Belgian Economic Mission to India. In total 344 business people, officials, academics and journalists travelled to Delhi (23-26/11), Mumbai (26-28/11) and Chennai (28-29/11), the largest Belgian delegation to India ever. 162 companies were represented. The Princess was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium Didier Reynders, Minister-President of Flanders Kris Peeters and Minister of Economy, Employment, Scientific Research and Foreign Trade of the Brussels-Capital Region Céline Fremault.

The mission was a great success, be it in the number of participants, the organisation and the quality of the meetings, and was broadly covered by the Indian and Belgian press.

In **New Delhi** several high-level encounters took place, with Minister of Commerce and Industry Anand Sharma, Minister of External Affairs Salman Kurshid and Minister of New and Renewable Energy Farooq Abdullah. Also several business seminars were organised. HRH Princess Astrid of Belgium and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Didier Reynders also paid a tribute to the Indian troops that fought on the Belgian front during World War I, by laying a wreath of flowers at India Gate. For the occasion the iconic Indian monument was decorated by a unique flower carpet designed by Belgian experts of the Royal Society for Agriculture and Horticulture of Ghent (Gentse Floraliën).

In **Mumbai** a high-level encounter took place with Union Minister for Shipping G K Vasan and with the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Raghuram Rajan. Several business seminars were organised, covering sectors such as infrastructure, clean tech, pharmaceuticals, shipping and diamonds of course. Also a seminar on Corporate Social Responsibility took place. At a commemoration ceremony at the Gateway of India the delegation paid its respects to the victims of the 2008 Mumbai attacks, day-to-day 5 years later.

In **Chennai** HRH Princess Astrid of Belgium officially inaugurated the new Consulate General of Belgium. Several business events, a tourism seminar and high level encounters concluded the mission.

# BELGIAN DIPLOMATIC NETWORK IN INDIA

## *Opening of the Consulate General in Chennai*



Photo 1: Brussels Minister of Economy Fremault, HRH Princess Astrid of Belgium, Ambassador Pierre Vaesen  
Photo 2: Consul Johan Graux, Consul General Bart De Groof, HRH Princess Astrid of Belgium

On November 28<sup>th</sup> HRH Princess Astrid of Belgium officially established the Consulate General of Belgium in Chennai. The opening of a new Consulate General is yet another sign of Belgium's focus on India, at a time when other embassies and consulates are being closed. Our aim is to further promote trade and investment between Belgium and the south of India, and to better cater for the Belgian community there. The Consulate General will be headed by **Mr. Bart De Groof, freshly appointed Consul General**. It will take however some more weeks to finish the new office premises and become fully operational. The new Consulate General in Chennai will cover the states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and the territory of Pondichéry. This means that for those states the Consulate General in Mumbai is no longer competent. Furthermore the states of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Odisha will from now on be covered by the Consulate General in Mumbai instead of the Embassy in New Delhi.

## *The new office of the Consulate General in Mumbai inaugurated*



In September the Consulate General in Mumbai shifted to a brand new office in the BKC business district. It is now better equipped to cater to the increasing economic contacts and visa applications, in a fresh, modern and secure office environment. On November 28<sup>th</sup> the new office was officially inaugurated by HRH Princess Astrid of Belgium, during the visit of the Belgian Economic Mission. Do come over to have a look!

## The Embassy of Belgium to India now has a Facebook-page!



The way we consume media has drastically evolved over the last few years. Just look at the most widely used social networking site on the planet: instead of searching for the news, Facebook allows us to let the news come to us! By connecting to our account we immediately see our friends' stories or pictures. The same is true of the pages we have liked. The Embassy of Belgium to India now has a Facebook-page. Click on the link below and "like" us on Facebook to be always kept in the loop of interesting activities and news about Belgium in India. Join our community of more than 335 followers.

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/embassybelgiumdelhi>

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## New website: Belgium in India



You may have noticed already that we have launched a new website! The website, which replaces the old websites of the Consulate General in Mumbai and the Embassy in Delhi, is available in English, French and Dutch. It is joint website for all Belgian diplomatic and consular missions in India. The website will keep you up-to-date on consular matters which are specifically applicable to Belgians in India, on visa rules for Indian citizens, on bilateral relations and other useful information or events.

Website in English : <http://countries.diplomatie.belgium.be/en/india>

Website in Dutch : <http://countries.diplomatie.belgium.be/nl/india>

Website in French : <http://countries.diplomatie.belgium.be/fr/inde>

## New faces at the Embassy and the Consulate General of Mumbai



Annelies Maricou



Arnaud Gaspart



Bernard Jacxsens



Jochen Antierens



Charly Poppe



Koen Gabriels

Jochen Anthierens and Charly Poppe, First Secretaries at the Embassy in Delhi, have completed their assignment and have both moved on to new exciting destinations, respectively Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) and Paris (France). Véronique Muteba, Visa Officer, has also move on to our Embassy in Manila (Philippines). Farewell to the three of you!

Jochen and Charly are being replaced by Annelies Maricou, who was previously posted in Moscow, Russia, and Arnaud Gaspart, who is shifting from our Consulate General in Guangzhou, China. Véronique has been replaced by Faroh Hadjida, who was posted before in our Embassy in Cairo (Egypt).

At the Consulate General in Mumbai Consul Koen Gabriels has moved back to Belgium, after many years abroad. He has been replaced as Consul by Bernard Jacxsens, coming from our Embassy in Seoul.

Welcome to Annelies, Faroh, Arnaud and Bernard!

## BUSINESS NEWS

### Liege Airport, world's best cargo airport of the year 2013!



The award received in Singapore was given during the "Payload Asia Awards." The engagement in the support of cargo activities, the operational performance, the customer service and the competitive tariffs were identified as the airport's main strengths. Note that Liege Airport is the largest cargo airport in Belgium and the 8th in Europe. Congratulations!

Link: [http://www.liegeairport.com/45\\_cargo-to-europe/index.html](http://www.liegeairport.com/45_cargo-to-europe/index.html)

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### Congratulations to BLBA's new elected Executive Committee!



The Belgium-Luxembourg Business Association (BLBA) was founded in 1999 to promote Belgian and Luxembourg business in the greater Delhi area and northern India. The new Executive Committee is presided by Mr. Rajiv Dhawan, whereas Mr. Anil Anand is its Vice-President.

Link: <http://blbanewdelhi.org/>

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## Efficient electrical motors now available in India



The Belgian company Maxeff Motors established a company in Mumbai to distribute in India. This new type of electric engine is mainly intended for industrial sectors, automotive, naval, agro-processing, construction and water-treatment. Later on, Maxeff Motors intends to set up a joint venture with an Indian manufacturer of engines.

Link: <http://www.maxeffmotors.com>

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## World's 4<sup>th</sup> best low-cost airport in Belgium



Brussels South Charleroi Airport, also called the Friendly Airport, is ranked the world's 4<sup>th</sup> best low-cost airport, by the British consultancy firm Skytrax. More than 12 million passengers and airport users of 108 nationalities, covering 395 airports worldwide, were interviewed for this survey. Excellent accessibility, new and comfortable infrastructure, ultra quick operations and low fares are cited as key to its success. Brussels South Charleroi Airport offers access to almost 100 destinations in Europe and Africa.

More info:

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

<http://www.charleroi-airport.com>

## World's best beer restaurants in Belgium



After awarding the Westvleteren XII beer the title of best beer in the world in 2013 and 2014 best beer in the world, the famous US website ratebeer.com recently published list of the best beer restaurants in the world. Three Belgian restaurants are heading the top:

- *De Heeren van Liedekercke* in Denderleeuw: <http://www.heerenvanliedekercke.be/>
- *Nuetnigenough* in Brussels: <http://www.nuetnigenough.be/>
- *Le Bier Circus* in Brussels: <http://www.bier-circus.be/>

## CULTURAL NEWS

### Belgium to commemorate First World War



The Belgian federal government has launched [www.be14-18.be](http://www.be14-18.be), the official website commemorating the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War (WWI) in Belgium. Belgium will be at the centre of the First World War centenary commemorations, which will include three ceremonies with international scope:

- 4 August 2014, Liège: commemorating Belgium's invasion by Germany and the violation of Belgium's neutrality. Theme: resistance to invasion.
- 28 October 2014, Ypres and Nieuwpoort: commemorating the Battle of Ypres. Theme: the refusal to surrender and the flooding of the Yser plain. has been
- 11 November 2018, Brussels: commemorating the signing of the Armistice. Theme: the end of war, the return to peace and reconstruction.



Indian President Mukherjee and several other high officials have been invited to the first two ceremonies. The federal authorities will also take part in four major commemorative activities. All commemorations will be focusing on three themes:

- Collective remembrance and passing on memories to future generations
- Working together for a peaceful future
- Solidarity and partnership

In addition to this, the Embassy of Belgium is working in close cooperation with the **United Services Institution of India** – a think-tank associated to the Ministry of Defence – and with key stakeholders from the cultural sector in Belgium, to set up a local exhibition aimed at communicating India's Imperial troops' involvement on the Belgian battlefields during World War 1.

Some 7,000 Indian soldiers passed away on Belgian soil during this conflict. They are honoured and remembered in official war cemeteries. With our partners, we aim to make their stories better known in India.

Links:

- <http://www.be14-18.be>

- <http://www.usiofindia.org/Projects/View/?pid=72>

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### Bollywood in Bruges: "P.K."



Producer S. Kishinchandani, Director R. Hirani, Visa Officer P. Ahluwalia, Consul General K. Van den Bossche and Consul E. van Kleunen

Belgium is literally *in the picture*, with "P.K.", the Bollywood film shot in Bruges from 10<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> June last year. The renowned director Rajkumar Hirani (from "3 Idiots" among others) decided to choose Belgium to film a major part of his film. The film, starring Anushka Sharma and Sushant Singh, is scheduled to release at the end of this year. Those who have seen "3 Idiots" will know to expect another clever film, this time with a Belgian touch!



And it doesn't stop there. Famous actress Kareena Kapoor has also discovered Belgium, but in a different way. She endorsed the launch of Magnum ice cream in India, while underlining the qualities of Belgian chocolate. "It's made from pure Belgian chocolate and that, for me, is the ultimate pleasure". Nothing to add there, Kareena.

More info on Belgium as a film destination: [www.belgiumfilm.be](http://www.belgiumfilm.be)

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### **Vacancies Dutch school "Olijke Olifant" in Mumbai**

Beginning of 2013 some motivated parents started organising the establishment of a school for Dutch language and culture classes in Mumbai. In the meantime the "Olijke Olifant" has shown to be a success. It finished its first year of classes and is now officially recognised by the Dutch NOB foundation. The school is however looking for a new teacher. There are also vacancies for a teacher's assistant and school board member. Are you interested? More information can be found below.

More info:

- <http://www.stichtingnob.nl/nieuws-en-media/nieuws/vacatures-2013/vacature-mumbai---india---fulltime-leerkracht-coordinator-po.aspx>

- [info@olijkeolifantmumbai.com](mailto:info@olijkeolifantmumbai.com)



## Exhibition of Flemish Masterpieces from Antwerp in Mumbai

On November 27<sup>th</sup> HRH Princess Astrid of Belgium inaugurated the exhibition “Flemish Masterpieces from Antwerp. Exclusive paintings from the 17th Century”, at CSMVS Museum in Mumbai, in the presence of HE Thiru G.K. Vasan, Minister of Shipping. The works include world class paintings and prints by masters such as Peter Paul Rubens, Anthony Van Dyck, Cornelis Galle, Jacob Jordaens, David Teniers, Frans Snijders, Paulus Pontius and Lucas Vorsterman, among others. With the organisation of the exhibition – which was a great success – closer relations have been formed between the cities and ports of Mumbai and Antwerp.

More info:

<http://www.csmvs.in/#>

<http://www.portofantwerp.com/en/flemish-masterpieces-antwerp-exclusive-paintings-engravings-17th-century>



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## First summer camp for expat kids entirely in Dutch



Expat organisation ‘Vlamingen in de Wereld’ and Idee Kids are organising the first summer camp exclusively for expat kids in Flanders. The children, between 6 and 12 years old, will play around the theme ‘Broodgeheimen en kippenplezier’ (‘bread secrets and chicken fun’) and in the meantime practice and develop the Dutch language. This summer camp will take place from 6 till 11 July in West Flanders in Belgium.

More info:

<http://www.viw.be/nl/onderwijs/eerste-zomerkamp-vlaanderen-voor-expat-kids-2014>

## Belgian choir performing a Christmas concert at the Embassy in Delhi



On 19<sup>h</sup> December, The Choir of the Embassy of Belgium performed for the second time in the atrium of the Embassy and presented a lively Christmas concert! It was a great opportunity for the choir singers to invite their kids to sing along half the songs, much to the delight of the 150-strong public. Finger food and Belgian beers have completed the night in a friendly – Belgian! – atmosphere...

The next concert will be held in May 2014.

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## Antwerp hosts largest Jain temple outside of India



The very successful Indian diamond community in Antwerp, almost all of whom are Jain, opened the largest Jain temple outside India in 2010, to strengthen Jain values in and across Western Europe. The temple, which covers 1000 square metres, also hosts an information centre on Jainism. While the temple was built in the pure Jain tradition, it was also designed to take account of the local weather conditions: the building is closed and uses radiant floor heating. This architectural marvel but can be visited at the following address:

Jain tempel Wilrijk  
Laarstraat 34 - 2610 Wilrijk

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## Tomorrowland, the first Belgian music festival to be staged abroad



Vibrant, dynamic and highly charged, Tomorrowland, the world-famous dance festival taking place in July near Antwerp, Belgium, has been described as “a trippy technicolour fantasy”. In its short history (this year is the tenth edition) the event has gained enthusiastic followers from all over the world. Tomorrowland not only brings together the greatest artists and DJs of the dance scene, but also incorporates a strong visual experience. Every year the organisers put a lot of effort and manpower in decorating the festival area, which contributes to the total Tomorrowland experience. To mention an example, 2011 saw an ‘Alice In Wonderland’ theme for the main stage with giant oak trees, mushrooms and waterfalls. Although this year’s festival has been spread on two weekends to accommodate even more music fans, the 360,000 tickets were sold out in no time! The festival was even exported for the first time. The first TomorrowWorld took place in Chattahoochee Hills near the city of Atlanta in the American state of Georgia on 27-29 September 2013.

Link: <http://www.tomorrowland.be>

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## One of the world’s best museums



Dinosaurs will be thundering back onto the big screen with the release of Jurassic Park in 3D. To mark the occasion, CNN released a list of the world’s best dinosaur museums: the Brussels Museum of Natural Sciences features in the top 12, along with the museums in London and New York. The Museum’s standout features include its huge gallery – the biggest in the world – its diverse collection, its display of original iguanodon skeletons and the numerous interactive exhibits in the room. The comments left on the Museum’s TripAdvisor, Facebook, Flickr and Twitter pages show that many visitors share this view.

Link: <http://www.naturalsciences.be>

# CONSULAR NEWS

## New Consulate General of Belgium in Chennai, new jurisdictions

Welcome to Mister Bart De Groof, Consul General of Belgium in Chennai!



The new Consulate General in Chennai will be open to the public as of 1 March 2014. It covers the states of **Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh** and the territory of **Pondichéry** (blue area on the map). This means that for those states the Consulate General in Mumbai is no longer competent. Furthermore the states of **Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh** and **Odisha** will from now on be covered by the Consulate General in Mumbai (orange area on the map) instead of the Embassy in New Delhi (yellow area).



## FAMOUS BELGIANS

### Nobel Prize of Physics co-awarded to Belgian François Englert



The Nobel Prize in Physics 2013 was awarded jointly to François Englert, from Belgium, and Peter W. Higgs, from England, for the theoretical discovery of a mechanism that contributes to our understanding of the origin of mass of subatomic particles, and which recently was confirmed through the discovery of the predicted fundamental particle, by the ATLAS and CMS experiments at CERN's Large Hadron Collider.

Link: <http://home.web.cern.ch/about/physics/search-higgs-boson>

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### Belgian mathematician Pierre Deligne named Abel Prize winner



Belgian mathematician Pierre Deligne, who is regarded as one of the most celebrated mathematicians of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, has been chosen for this year's prestigious Abel Prize in Mathematics. The 69-year-old professor emeritus of the Institute of Advanced Study, Princeton, is being awarded for his "*seminal contributions to algebraic geometry and for their transformative impact on number theory, representation theory and related fields*". Prof. Deligne received the Prize from H.M. King Harald V of Norway at a ceremony in Oslo on 21<sup>st</sup> May.

The Abel Prize is considered equivalent to the Nobel Prize, which is not awarded in the field of mathematics. It carries a cash award of about Euro 800,000.

Link: <http://www.abelprize.no/nyheter/vis.html?tid=57811>

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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)

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