



# NEWSLETTER

2020

Issue 7

## Indian Honorary Consulate Stuttgart



### NO STANDSTILL IN EXCHANGE

The global corona pandemic also puts international partnerships to the test.

On 24 March 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi ordered a lockdown for India. Since then, more than 1.3 billion Indians have been living with curfew. This poses great challenges for this diverse nation. In the media, the main focus has been on migrant workers and day labourers, who now have to fight for their livelihoods even harder than usual.

In these difficult times we have to live in solidarity across national borders.

When we celebrated our 16th wine festival "Stuttgart meets Mumbai" in February 2020, no one would have imagined that a virus could bring our global world to a halt. Even though many events had to be cancelled, I am happy to see that there is no lockdown for the Indo-German exchange.

The new circumstances require new formats. I am especially looking forward to the Indian Film Festival Stuttgart, which will take place online for the first time.

To make it even easier for you to get in touch with us and to make sure that news reaches you faster, we have set up a Facebook page. Under „Indisches Honorarkonsulat Stuttgart / Indian Honorary Consulate“ we are there for you.

Let us continue the intercultural exchange and support each other!  
All the best to you!

Andreas Lapp

Honorary Consul of the Republic of India for Baden-Wuerttemberg and  
Rhineland Palatinate

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# 16. WINE FESTIVAL „STUTTART MEETS MUMBAI“



*Opening of the 16th wine festival on 07.02.2020 at the Taj Lands End Hotel in Mumbai with representatives from Germany and India*

For the 16th time, Honorary Consul Andreas Lapp organized the wine festival „Stuttgart meets Mumbai“ again this year. On February 7th and 8th he welcomed about 2000 guests from economy, politics, film and media, tourism, education and gastronomy in Mumbai. The aim of the wine festival is to promote the intercultural exchange and deepen the partnerships between India and Germany.

For this purpose, the Mayoress of Stuttgart Dr. Alexandra Sussmann had travelled to Mumbai with a small delegation to revive the 52-year old city partnership between Stuttgart and Mumbai.

Furthermore, the 5th anniversary of the partnership between the states of Baden-Wuerttemberg and Maharashtra was celebrated. For this reason, Andreas Lapp welcomed State Minister Theresa Schopper and State Secretary Petra Olschowski as guests of honour at the wine festival, who were on site with two German delegations to further promote Indo-German cooperation.



*State minister Theresa Schopper and Andreas Lapp*



*Reception of the guests of honour on 07.02.2020*



*Andreas Lapp thanks the guests*



*Event location*







*Indian dance performances*



*Information stall*

In addition to the many opportunities for networking there were also workshops held by the Business Development department of the city of Stuttgart, LAPP India and the Film Office Baden-Wuerttemberg. Various partners of the wine festival from India and Germany also presented their work at information stalls.

In the evenings specialties and wines from India and Germany were offered to the guests. Two young German chefs hosted a live cooking show together with the Mayoress of Stuttgart. On stage, they prepared a Swabian dessert with vanilla sauce. The successful 2-day event was accompanied by an expressive Indian stage program.



*In the centre the Mayoress of Mumbai, Kishori Pednekar; on the right the Mayoress of Stuttgart, Dr. Alexandra Sussmann*



*German young chefs with Stuttgart's mayoress Dr. Sussmann*



*German and Indian wines*



*Workshop*



# MANN+HUMMEL AT THE WINE FESTIVAL

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MANN+HUMMEL is the world market leader in the field of filtration. In the following interview Harsha Prakash Gowda and Pranav Kaushik Kumar talk about their experience at the wine festival „Stuttgart meets Mumbai“ and the company’s vision for Mumbai.

**1. How did you like the event?**

It was an amazing event and we are very grateful for the invitation. The wine festival offered us opportunities to connect with people and encouraged both countries to work more closely with each other and develop new business opportunities. In addition, the fact that many important people from both cities were present was a good opportunity to highlight our company and its’ products.

**2. MANN + HUMMEL pursues the goal to provide healthy air in urban environments. Mumbai is one the cities with the highest air pollution levels. How will you reach your objective in providing healthy air in India?**

Our mission is to “Remove the Harmful from the Useful”. We are doing lots of R&D for providing clean/better air both inside and outside. Mumbai is densely populated, thus creating high level of pollution. With expertise in filtration over 80 years, we have developed/innovated filtration technologies, which will help to clean hot spots in the cities. We would like to use our expertise and network by presenting solutions to various state governments and MCD. Our goal is to provide clean air in the cities, where people spend most of their time.

**3. At your partner booth, you displayed a filter cube. What is special about these cubes?**

This a solution developed for providing clean air in semi-closed environments, which occupies less space like in underground metro stations, bus stops or parking lots which have less spaces for large purifiers. We have different models and we will also give varieties of filtration solution based on the type of air pollutant. Moreover, we are developing base technology applications for measures against viruses in the air. Those are already sold in the US and Southern America.

**4. Were there any special experiences and encounters at the wine festival?**

Of course, there were many good conversations and experiences. The Minister of Tourism and Environment of Maharashtra Mr. Thackeray was impressed with our solutions and ideas and showed interest in having those systems installed in Mumbai. The CEO of TATA Motors, Mr. Butschek was among the other important person to visit our booth. He was also very impressed by the technology and the concept.

**5. In your opinion, how will the air quality in Indian cities develop in the years ahead?**

Awareness among the people has increased a lot regarding air pollution. We have discussed a draft policy from the Government named “Breathe India” which has many points that indicate towards better breathable air. We consider this as a positive sign as with increased awareness people are looking for more solutions to safeguard themselves from these harmful particles. We could see a better future for India in terms of air quality as more and measures that are more positive are going to be taken to ensure a clean and healthy India.



*MANN+HUMMEL information stall at the 16. wine festival in Mumbai*



# INDIAN REPUBLIC DAY

The celebrations on the occasion of India's Republic Day, which commemorates the entry into force of the Indian Constitution of 1950, fell on Valentine's Day this year.

Honorary Consul Andreas Lapp had invited around 300 guests and friends of India to the celebrations in Stuttgart's Pullman Hotel.

He gave a review of India's history and shared his personal highlights of this year's wine festival „Stuttgart meets Mumbai“, from which he had returned only a few days earlier.

The mayoress of Stuttgart for Social Affairs and Integration, Dr. Alexandra Sussmann, also reported on her experiences during her delegation trip to India. She praised the commitment of Honorary Consul Lapp:

„You are a figurehead for India. Together with you, we are forging open doors in India. Without you, the intensive connection to India wouldn't be possible“.



*Festive lighting of the oil lamp*



*Welcoming of the guests by Andreas Lapp*



*Guests leave their thoughts in the guestbook*

Besides traditional Indian dancers, the Indian singer Fra-zan Kotwal and the Indo-German band Indrajala performed during that evening.

Enough possibilities for exchange between the guests were given afterwards at a buffet with Indian specialties.

On the occasion of Valentine's Day, the farewell of the celebrations was accompanied by roses.



*Roses for the farewell*



*Indian buffet and music*

# OPINIONS ON THE CORONA CRISIS: INTERVIEWS WITH INDIAN CITIZIENS

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During the last months, India has executed a nationwide lockdown to cope with the Corona pandemic. We asked some of our partners from India how they tackle the new challenges.



Saurabh Shah,  
CEO, Universal  
Business and  
Corporate Services  
Centre,  
Mumbai



Roshan Netalkar, Mana-  
ging Director, Swordfish  
Events & Entertainment;  
Festival Director, Echoes  
of Earth Music Festival,  
Bangalore

**1. How do you experience the lockdown in India?**

The lockdown was introduced in India from 25th March, 2020 and in phases. It was a much-necessary step as there was a grave danger of cases of the virus hiking up. The initial phases of lockdown implied almost no movement within the city, state and the country. Only the essential services were allowed to function. From the fifth phase, after May 31, 2020, India is all geared-up to slowly resume economic activities.

**2. How did your professional and personal life change during these uncertain times?**

Considering my professional life, there was a major change which involved accommodating my colleagues to the new work culture of working from home. It was a major shift from the 'regular commuter's life' to being at home yet consistently in touch with each other virtually.

**3. Is there anything good about the crisis?**

Every coin has two sides. The good side in case of the pandemic is the opportunity for digitisation. Almost every business excluding the agriculture and manufacturing sector, have realised that one can work from home. This has definitely resulted in better use of technology, saving in time of commuting and proper use of work-hours. Some business leaders are considering 'work from home' as a permanent feature and have started evaluating its merits and challenges. Even the education field is facing a major transformation with a lot of scope for online learning. The crisis has taught us valuable lessons

As far as my personal life is concerned, I got an opportunity to spend quality time with my family.

**1. How do you experience the lockdown in India?**

The lockdown has been a very challenging time for us in India as it has been everywhere else. There was a shut-down pretty much of the entire economy, rendering people jobless, homeless and helpless. This has affected different classes of society in different ways. While I consider myself better off than many, being an entrepreneur has brought its own set of "lockdown" challenges namely around uncertainty and managing cash flow. For the first time in our lives we have taken a pause and gone back to fundamentals.

**2. How did your professional and personal life change during these uncertain times?**

On the professional front the outlook was very bleak with the events space being one of the worst hit sectors and coming to a standstill altogether. There has been a lot of ambiguity surrounding the situation leaving everyone feeling unsettled and anxious. On the personal front it has been a great time – spent quality time with family, focused on exercise and clean eating and enjoyed the space of my home which I otherwise couldn't get enough of living life in the fast lane.

**3. How does Swordfish cope with the situation?**

Swordfish as an organization has always been very agile so we used this time of adversity to rethink our strategy for survival. We saw an opportunity for events and entertainment to move from offline to the virtual space and tapped into that early on. We collaborated with multiple tech partners to create a virtual event platform and hope to see this keeping us afloat in the short term till things bounce back to how they were earlier.





**Ashumi Shroff,**  
**Sr. Economic Officer,**  
**Consulate General of**  
**the Federal Republic of**  
**Germany,**  
**Mumbai**

**1. How do you experience the lockdown in India?**

Considering that the highest number of cases in India stemmed from Maharashtra, the lockdown was stricter - and still is and therefore reopening for the industry was very challenging.

But after 2 months of very strict lockdown the wheels on the road and factories have started clacking again. However, it has brought the Indian economy on a new low. Already existing negative economic trends were reinforced and the economy should prepare for a comeback in 2021.

**2. How did your professional and private life change during these uncertain times?**

As the key to avoid the spread of the virus was to maintain social distancing. I have experienced a digital transformation both at work and at home. Home office, virtual meetings and webinars, home school or personal fitness via various online chatrooms kept me connected to the external world. Therefore, there has been a change in the way we communicate. Of course, being confined to home and only occasionally at the office was quite a challenge for a “hyper”-active personally as myself.

**3. How does the German Consulate cope with the situation?**

Just as the lockdown was announced due to Covid-19 as a precaution the German Consulate divided the team into 2 shifts and we work every alternate day from office. Working from home is being encouraged to avoid the risk of getting infected. During the lockdown the German Consulate in Mumbai arranged 7 of the 12 repatriation flights to Germany from India which brought close to 3000 Germans and EU citizen back to Germany.

**4. How did the German Consulate assist German companies during the lockdown?**

As an outcome of vague and often changing government regulations and stringent lockdown norms, the past 3 months saw us more engaged with the German industry in Maharashtra than ever before. Partnering with the Indo-German Chamber of Commerce we were constantly in touch with companies to support them with applications to get operational and travel permits and help with movement of crucial goods etc. We bridged the gap between the industry and government by hosting several webinars with relevant officials in Mumbai and Pune.



**Yogesh Londhe,**  
**Winemaker,**  
**Good Drop Wine**  
**Cellars Pvt. Ltd.,**  
**Nashik**

**1. How do you experience the lockdown in India?**

People initially couldn't understand what's going on. But gradually they got to know the importance of being at home and following the government's instructions. People cannot move outside their homes but they get connected with each other through social media and wireless modes of communication. In India the most popular serial of mythological story 'Ramayana' has started telecasting again so that people can enjoy it with family. For me the most beautiful experience is that I can see the stars in the sky.

On the other hand the migrant workers have started moving towards their native place due to loss of their daily wages and business owners are stuck in a big loss of manpower.

**2. How did your professional and personal life change during these uncertain times?**

Professional life got changed as I have to stretch my working hours to a week on staying back at the winery only following two three days off accordingly. We had started our harvesting season and then we got into lockdown. So we lost some good quality grapes. We were working hard all day and night to make our company survive in this pandemic.

Regarding my personal life: For the last 70 days I have been staying at a winery with my colleagues so it's like winery quarantine. We do cooking, cleaning, washing and everything. And for all of us it's altogether a new experience of independence being away from home. Once in a week for 2-3 days we are with our family.

**3. Is there anything good about the crisis?**

We spare time for ourselves. We started thinking more about family and company. We come closer to our priorities. We got connected with old friends via social media.

Another good thing happening in that area, we can now hear the chirping of birds, can inhale the fresh air, pollution graphs getting down, accidents are minimal, at most of the households men started cooking, shopping for veggies and grocery and some house chores too.

# CREATIVEDAYS STUTTGART - DESIGN.ARTS.ARCHITECTURE.

As part of the Indian Summer in July 2019, the Creative-Days Stuttgart took place for the fourth time in the Hospitalhof.

The CreativeDays are an international platform with a symposium and accompanying events, founded on the initiative of the interdisciplinary design studio poonamdesigners.

The last symposium dealt with the topic „The Future of Cities“, where, among others, the Indian architect Rohan Shivkumar from Mumbai presented his projects.

Exciting creative installations, staging, presentations by universities and companies lead through the symposium.



*CreativeDays Stuttgart 2019*



*CreativeDays Stuttgart 2019*

At the „Open Atelier“ event, the architecture office of blocher partners opened the doors for the guests and presented its current Indian and international projects. The film „Nostalgia for the Future“ by architect and filmmaker Rohan Shivkumar was shown in the room gallery.

This year the CreativeDays are postponed to 23. - 28. October 2020. However, on July 14, there will be a filmic insight online by the invited architect Rupali Gupte from Mumbai.

You can find more information on [www.poonam-designer.com/creativedays-stuttgart/](http://www.poonam-designer.com/creativedays-stuttgart/)



*CreativeDays Stuttgart 2019*



*CreativeDays Stuttgart 2019*



# INDIAN DELEGATION VISITS LAPP

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On 24th February 2020 an Indian delegation has visited LAPP.

The guests were managers from SMEs working in the fields of agriculture and food processing, mechanical engineering, consumer goods and textiles and consulting and services.

After a short company presentation the 18-member delegation could visit the production facilities and understand how a cable is produced at LAPP.



*Indian delegation in front of LAPP*

Following the company tour the guests were introduced to the work of the Indian Honorary Consulate and the Indian Business Center. The manager received information about the different services offered by the Consulate and about establishing a company in Germany.

During a short get-together the guests from India could exchange with representatives from LAPP and ask questions.



*Indian delegation at LAPP*



*Indian delegation at LAPP*

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## OBITUARY HELMUT NANZ

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We mourn Helmut Nanz.

He died on 15 April 2020 at the age of 76.

Helmut Nanz was not only a well-known entrepreneur from Stuttgart, but also Honorary Consul of the Republic of India for Baden-Wuerttemberg and Rheinland-Palatinate from 1983 to 1999, and filled this honorary position with great commitment.

As an honorary member of the board, he also shaped and promoted the Indo-German Society (DIG e.V.) and the India Foundation for many years.

In deference to his personality and his work we remain Helmut Nanz in deep gratitude.

India has lost a friend.

# THE INDIAN HONORARY CONSULATE AT ZEW

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On 19th February 2020 Maria Dobritzsch, Managing Director of the Indian Honorary Consulate in Stuttgart visited ZEW - Leibniz Centre for European Economic Research in Mannheim to inform a delegation of Indian managers about the work of the Indian Honorary Consulate and the offered support services.

Ms. Dobritzsch also spoke about the Indian Business Center, in which Indian companies could rent office space. In addition she provided knowledge about settling a company in Germany.

The participants of the workshop were managers from Indian enterprises. They participated in a Manager Training Programme initiated by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi). The program is particularly directed to foreign SMEs, which are interested in business cooperation's with German companies.

During the four-week training the participants could learn about the characteristics of the German business culture and establish business relations with German companies.

The delegates from India showed great interest in the work of the Indian Honorary Consulate. A few days after the presentation some of the delegates came to Stuttgart to visit the Indian Business Center in order to gain an impression of the premises.



*Ms. Dobritzsch holds a presentation at ZEW*



*Indian managers at ZEW*

## LIBRARY COLLECTION NOW CATALOGUED

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The Indian Honorary Consulate is maintaining a small library with German and Indian books and magazines.

The collection can be visited for free after prior registration. In order to facilitate research, we have catalogued all media. On the website of the Indian Honorary Consulate the inventory list of the library can be downloaded.



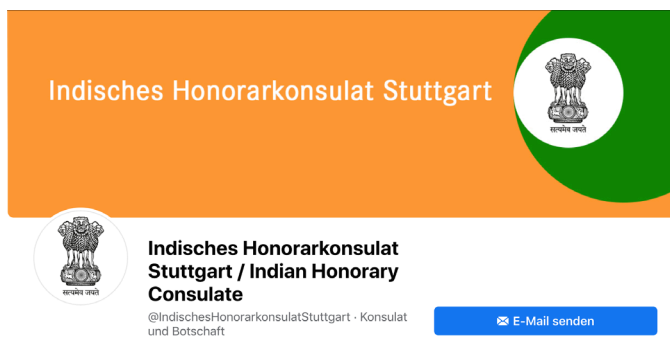
*Library at the Indian Honorary Consulate*



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Our new Facebook page

Photos, videos, events, current news, cultural tips and much more can now be found on our new Facebook page. Here you can also easily get in touch with us. Please find us under: „Indisches Honorarkonsulat Stuttgart/ Indian Honorary Consulate“.

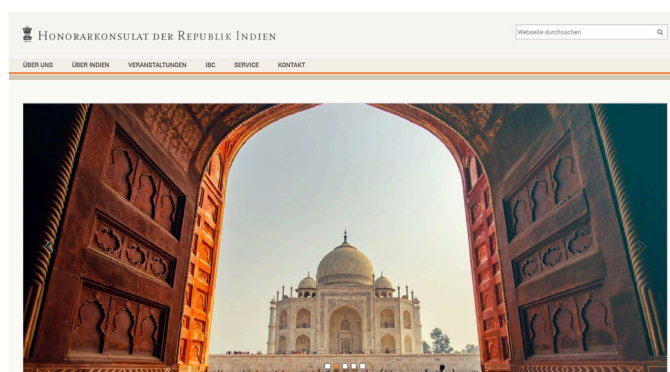


*Facebook page of the Indian Honorary Consulate*

### Revised website

Our website has got a new look this year.

At [www.honorarkonsulat-indien.de](http://www.honorarkonsulat-indien.de) you will find all important information about the Honorary Consulate and our Indian Business Center. Our newsletter is also available as a soft copy.



*Website of the Indian Honorary Consulate*

## DATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

14.07.2020	CreativeDays Stuttgart - pulse
15.-19.07.2020	Indian Film Festival Stuttgart Up-to-date information on <a href="http://www.indisches-filmfestival.de">www.indisches-filmfestival.de</a>
25.09.2020	Long Night of the Consulates in Stuttgart
23.-28.10.2020	CreativeDays Stuttgart - open atelier - symposium - studio



*Indian Film Festival 2020*



सत्यमेव जयते

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