



# NEWSLETTER 2022

Issue 11

## Indian Honorary Consulate Stuttgart



### INDIA'S 75<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OF INDEPENDENCE

This year is a special one for India: it is the 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Year.

With the initiative "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav", India celebrates not only independence, but also the history of the Indian people, the diverse culture and the numerous achievements of the country.

With its 1.4 billion inhabitants, India is the largest democracy in the world and has rapidly developed into a high-tech country. India is an important partner for Germany not only politically, but also economically. Economic exchange brings many Indians with expertise to Germany and, in turn, almost 2,000 German companies are already based in India. Many of them are in the state of Maharashtra, which has a close partnership with Baden-Württemberg.

This year's wine festival took place in February with over 1,000 participants, mostly online.

I am therefore personally all the more pleased that travel is currently possible again and that exchanges have thus resumed in private, cultural and business areas.

With the festivities on the occasion of the Republic Day on February 11<sup>th</sup>, the in-person events in Stuttgart have started again. Delegations can be received in our facilities again and our partners offer a variety of cultural, culinary and professional events. Also in May, a German-Indian Round Table with German and Indian representatives from business, politics and society took place again.

The newsletter gives you an overview of the projects and activities of the past months and a preview of what lies ahead. I am very much looking forward to meeting you all again in person.

From July 18<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>, the Indian Summer and the Indian Film Festival will take place in Stuttgart again, as well as the India Summer Days in Karlsruhe. Please also save the date for the wine festival STUTTGART MEETS MUMBAI in India, from February 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Yours sincerely,

Andreas Lapp

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

#### CONTENT

##### EDITORIAL

INDIA'S 75<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OF INDEPENDENCE → S. 1

18<sup>TH</sup> WINE FESTIVAL STUTTGART MEETS MUMBAI BUILDS DIGITAL INDO-GERMAN BRIDGE → S. 2

REPUBLIC DAY → S. 4

INDIA PRESENTS ITSELF AT EXPO 2020 IN DUBAI  
→ S. 5

INDIAN WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS VISIT LAPP AS PART OF A VIRTUAL COMPANY VISIT → S.5

CULINARY WORLD TRIP TO INDIA  
→ S. 6

INDIAN DELEGATION VISITS LAPP  
→ S. 6

GERMAN-INDIAN ROUND TABLE  
→ S. 7

TRADITIONAL ANNUAL MEETING OF THE INDO-GERMAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE → S. 7

INDIAN FOOD FESTIVAL 2022 BY MAHARASHTRA MANDAL STUTTGART E.V → S. 8

ELEPHANT BENNI → S. 8

50 YEARS "THEATER AM FADEN"  
→ S. 9

HIMIDIPI → S. 10

INAUGURAL VISIT TO THE INDIAN EMBASSY IN BERLIN  
→ S. 10

NEWS IN BRIEF → S. 11

DATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PUBLISHING DETAILS  
→ S. 12

# 18<sup>TH</sup> WINE FESTIVAL STUTT GART MEETS MUMBAI BUILDS DIGITAL INDO-GERMAN BRIDGE

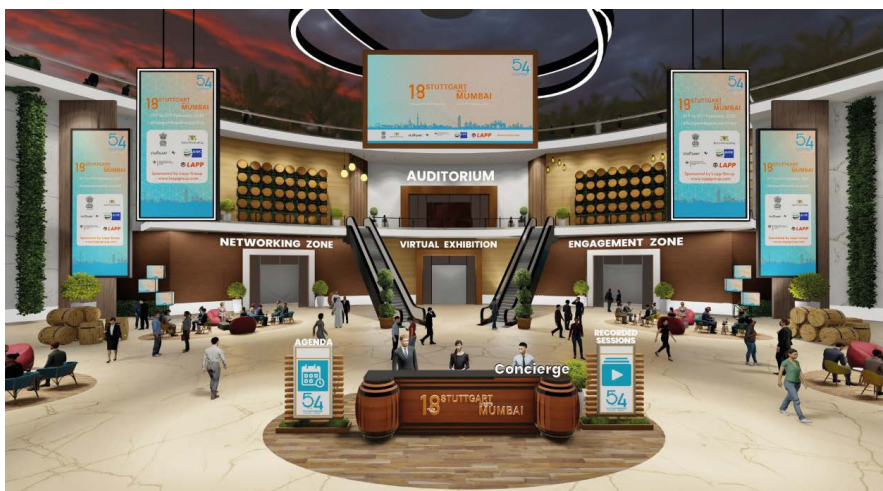
*Normally, Andreas Lapp, Honorary Consul of the Republic of India for Baden-Württemberg and Rhineland-Palatinate, would have flown to India again with a delegation to deepen relations between India and Germany and to build bridges at the wine festival STUTT GART MEETS MUMBAI.*



*Welcoming of the guests by Honorary Consul Andreas Lapp*

However, due to the pandemic, the wine festival could only take place digitally. Therefore, the virtual edition of STUTT GART MEETS MUMBAI lasted with seven instead of two days significantly longer than in the previous years. From February 21<sup>st</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022, interested people from all over the world could be inspired by the two cultures on a digital platform. “It was very important to me that, despite the pandemic, the ties between Germany and India should not be broken, but should continue to be cultivated,” emphasized Honorary Consul Andreas Lapp, who has been Honorary Consul of the Republic of India for Baden-Württemberg and Rhineland-Palatinate for 21 years. STUTT GART MEETS MUMBAI is a meeting place for partners from politics, business, film and media, tourism and the wine industry. This year, STUTT GART MEETS MUMBAI turned 18 and celebrates 54 years of partnership between the cities of Stuttgart and Mumbai.

In addition to a digital platform with webinars, virtual partner booths and a presence event of the Stuttgart Chamber of Industry and Commerce on the topic of “Doing Business in India – Company Formation and International Management”, the focus was of course on wine. Six renowned wineries from Baden-Württemberg held two wine tastings, and food packages with Swabian specialties such as cheese Spaetzle and



*Virtual platform of the wine festival*

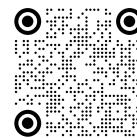


*Event of the CCI-Stuttgart*

Ofenschlupfer were also delivered to the participants' homes on request. Each participant received in advance an attractive, well-packaged box containing a set of three wine bottles. The wine set for February 26<sup>th</sup> included a Chardonnay late vintage from the Unser Winery, a family winery in Württemberg, a Rosé from the Weinsberg state Winery and a Lemberger from the Berthold Winery. On February 27<sup>th</sup>, a Riesling from the City of Stuttgart Winery, a Rosé from the Heinrich Winery and a Lemberger from the Wöhrwag Winery were tasted. Maria Dobritzsch, former head of the Honorary Consulate of India in Stuttgart, guided the event. Rolf Hauser, who headed the Weinsberg State Winery for 35 years and retired in 2019, Frank Haller, winemaker and cellar master of the City of Stuttgart Winery, and Hans-Peter Wöhrwag, winemaker at the Wöhrwag Family Winery, provided information about the selected wines, their vineyards and wineries, and about Stuttgart's peculiarity of having vineyards in the city itself.

For the first time, a quiz was held on the virtual wine festival platform. The winners could look forward to a surprise package with German-Indian specialties. A photo competition on the topic STUTTGART MEETS MUMBAI and a yoga session rounded off the diverse program.

The aim of the event is to promote the partnership between Stuttgart and Mumbai. In conclusion, the 18<sup>th</sup> wine festival STUTTGART MEETS MUMBAI was also a great success this year with around 1,000 participants from Germany, India and 19 other countries. Highlights of the wine festival STUTTGART MEETS MUMBAI can be found on our YouTube channel.



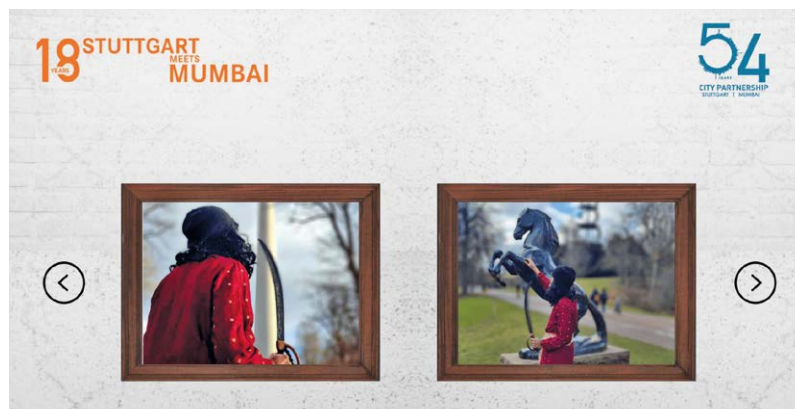
Save the date for the wine festival STUTTGART MEETS MUMBAI 2023 already today, from February 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023.



*Virtual wine tasting*



*Food packages with Swabian specialties*



*Virtual photo competition*

# REPUBLIC DAY

*India gained its independence 75 years ago on August 15, 1947, however, its laws were based on the modified Colonial Act of the Government of India of 1935.*

For this reason, a draft constitution was prepared and submitted to the Assembly. Thus, on January 26, 1950, the Constitution of India came into force, completing the country's transition to an independent republic. To celebrate this important day in India's history, Andreas Lapp, in his capacity as Honorary Consul of the Republic of India for Baden-Wuerttemberg and Rhineland-Palatinate, invited around 200 guests to the Pullman Stuttgart Fontana Hotel on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

The Indian Ambassador H.E. Parvathaneni Harish, Minister of State and Head of the State Chancellery in the Ministry of State of Baden-Württemberg, Dr. Florian Stegmann, Mohit Yadav, Indian Consul General in Munich, Isabel Fezer, Mayor of the City of Stuttgart and Dr. Frank Mentrup, Lord Mayor of the City of Karlsruhe were received as guests of honor. To open the ceremony, Honorary Consul Andreas Lapp together with the guests of honor lit the Indian oil lamp and subsequently the Indian national anthem was sung.

"I am very happy that after two years of pandemic we can finally meet again in person and give a strong booster to the Indo-German friendship" said Andreas Lapp in his welcome address. He mentioned the close partnership between the two countries and talked about the anniversary celebration: 70 years of diplomatic relationship between India and Germany. In his speech, he also referred to the successful virtual wine festival last year and informed the guests that there will be more events to promote exchange.

During the Republic Day celebration, the Gisela Bonn Award of the Indo-German Society (DIG) and the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) was also presented to Dr. Marie Elisabeth Müller for her special achievements in establishing the "Dr. Hermann Gundert Museum and Study Centre" in Thalassery, Kerala, and promoting Indo-German relations. The event was framed by a diverse cultural program with music and dance performances and at the end an extensive buffet with Indian specialties rounded off the evening.



*Lighting of the oil lamp with the guests of honor*



*Welcoming of the guests by Honorary Consul Andreas Lapp*



*Indian dance performance*



*Presentation of the Gisela Bonn Award to Dr. Marie Elisabeth Müller*

# INDIA PRESENTS ITSELF AT EXPO 2020 IN DUBAI

*“Connecting thoughts, shaping the future” has been the motto of the World Expo in Dubai. From 01.10.2021 to 31.03.2022, more than 24 million people from 178 countries visited the EXPO 2020 in Dubai.*

The focus was on sustainability, new forms of mobility and social innovation. Among the 192 country pavilions, the India pavilion also opened for the exhibition and attracted nearly 800,000 visitors.

The South Asian country presented the “new India” at the center of the pavilion, which stood for an emerging global center for innovation, inspiration and investment. The diverse exhibits showcased not only the food, tea and Bollywood entertainment, but also the country’s modern advances in technology and aerospace. The main themes of

the exhibition also included climate, urban and rural development, travel, and sustainability.



*India pavilion at EXPO 2020 in Dubai. (Source: EXPO 2020 Dubai)*

## INDIAN WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS VISIT LAPP AS PART OF A VIRTUAL COMPANY VISIT

*On Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021 the Indian Honorary Consulate organized a virtual company visit for the women’s wing of the Indian Industrial company “Vidarbha Industries Association (VIA)”.*

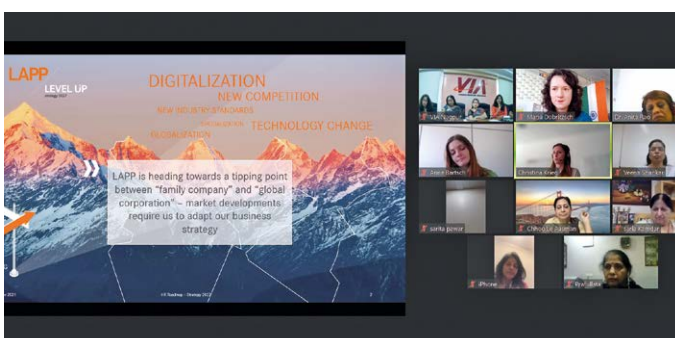
More than 50 female entrepreneurs took part in the digital event, which lasted about two hours. After welcoming the participants by the leading persons of VIA, Maria Dobritzsch, then head of the Indian Honorary Consulate in Stuttgart, welcomed the guests and introduced the LAPP company.

Afterwards, Ms. Christina Krieg, Human Resources Officer, gave an insight into HR management at LAPP.

Ms. Anne Bartsch, trainee as an industrial clerk at LAPP, explained the dual training system in Germany and her experiences as an apprentice in a family-run company.

Ms. Veena Shankar, Quality Manager at LAPP India Pvt. Ltd., gave an introduction to quality management at LAPP. At the end of the virtual event, Ms. Dobritzsch introduced the Indian Honorary Consulate and the Indian Business Center in Stuttgart.

The event was very well received by the women attending, as evidenced by the many questions addressed to the speakers.



*Virtual company visit*



*Participants from the Vidarbha Industries Association*

# CULINARY WORLD TRIP TO INDIA

*In cooperation with the VHS Stuttgart, the Honorary Consulate of India organized an Indian cooking evening on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 on the topic “Culinary world tour – as guest in India: The best dishes from the Indian cuisine”.*

During the cooking course, the participants learned more about the work of the Honorary Consulate in Stuttgart and were able to get to know the Indian cuisine while cooking together. Indian dishes such as butter chicken, cauliflower, rice pulao, Indian bread and gajjar halwa were cooked together. The aim was to make it easy to cook the dishes at home. The food was served with information about the country. The participants were so enthusiastic that the cooking night shall be continued next year. We will inform you about new dates on our website.



*Various Indian dishes were prepared during the “Culinary World Tour”*

# INDIAN DELEGATION VISITS LAPP

*After a two-year break, an Indian delegation visited LAPP for the first time again on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022.*

During the company visit, the delegates, an international group of managers and executives, not only received an overview of the company and the topic of change management at LAPP, but also a guided tour through the production of the LAPP cable plants. The tour concluded with a presentation of the Honorary Consulate of India and a Get Together.

The Manager Training Program is an initiative sponsored by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, managed by the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) and realized through training centres (such as the IHK Region Stuttgart). We therefore host several international groups of managers and executives each year. The goal of the program is the economic promotion of both countries (Germany or Baden-Württemberg and the cooperation country).



*The participants of the Manager Training Program visiting LAPP*



*Guided tour of the LAPP cable works*

# GERMAN-INDIAN ROUND TABLE ON 24<sup>TH</sup> MAI 2022

*This year's first German-Indian Round Table in Stuttgart took place in May.*

Among the guests were representatives from Germany and India of different companies and organizations, as well as business development from the state capital Stuttgart and the city of Karlsruhe. The speaker, Dr. Stefan Tetzlaff, is

founder and owner of “history& strategy consulting” and works as a political advisor in the German Bundestag (parliament). He spoke on the topic “MSME meets SME: On the sense and purpose of a new SME forum between Germany and India” and a lively exchange with the participants followed over an excellent dinner at the Bischoff Club Restaurant.



*Host Andreas Lapp and his guests from the world of politics and business*



*Speaker Dr. Stefan Tetzlaff*

## TRADITIONAL ANNUAL MEETING OF THE INDO-GERMAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

*The Honorary Consulate of India in Stuttgart participated on June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022 in the Traditional Annual Meeting of the Indo-German Chamber of Commerce at the IHK Dortmund.*

India's Chief Justice, Hon'ble Mr. Justice N.V. Ramana, gave a lecture on “Arbitration in the Globalised World - Indian Experience”.

The Indian Consul General in Frankfurt, Dr. Amit Telang, also spoke to the guests.

An exciting discussion on the topic “Recent trends in Indo-German business” came to the conclusion: India and Germany are important partners on many levels. Not only multinationals, but more and more German SMEs (Mittelstand) are venturing into India, and rightly so. It is a question of the perception of India and the approach in the country how successful a German company will be on the Indian subcontinent. This was confirmed, for example, by Wilo Group, which has been operating successfully in and out of India for many years.



*India's Chief Justice, Hon'ble Mr. Justice N.V. Ramana, speaks about “Arbitration in the Globalised World - Indian Experience”*



*Discussion on the topic “Recent trends in Indo-German business”*



# INDIAN FOOD FESTIVAL 2022 BY MAHARASHTRA MANDAL STUTTGART E.V

Maharashtra Mandal Stuttgart e.V. (MMS) is a young organization that started five years ago with an aim to provide a platform for Indian cultural initiatives and forge a medium for bilateral exchange between Indian and other communities. The food festival is one such initiative started by MMS to offer home cooks an opportunity to showcase their culinary skills and offer visitors a rare insight into the otherwise unknown world of local Indian cuisine.

This year the 'Indian Food Festival' saw its third installment on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at AWO Fasanenhof, Stuttgart. Over 30 different foods, all themed after Indian street food, were offered along with non-alcoholic and alcoholic drinks. With every passing year, the food festival has seen an increase in its popularity with an overwhelming footfall of over seven hundred visitors this year. Visitors showed their love by coming not only from Stuttgart but

also from cities like Reutlingen, Heilbronn, Karlsruhe and as far as Crailsheim and Singen, and left behind words of appreciation.

Apart from the main culinary offerings, the festival organized a photography and art exhibition, and a cultural program comprising of music, dance, and stand-up performances, which saw just as much appreciation as the festival itself. The multitude of activities organized for children at the kids' corner saw a lot of euphoric engagement from children and parents alike.

All in all, it would be only apt to call the 'Indian Food Festival' of 2022 a success, leaving behind immense motivation to strive for an even better festival next year.

*Text: Maharashtra Mandal Stuttgart e.V.*



*Sale of homemade Indian dishes. (Source: MMS e.V.)*



*There were many colourful and spicy delicacies from India. (Source: MMS e.V.)*

## ELEPHANT BENNI

Elephant "Benni" has been with LAPP for 16 years. In 2006, India was the partner country of the Hanover Fair. At that time, Benni and other elephants graced the opening ceremony at the Congress Centrum. When Honorary Consul Andreas Lapp learned that the showpieces were to be disposed of, he gave Benni a new home in Stuttgart. Since then, the elephant has stood on the company grounds, signalling to every visitor the deep bond that LAPP has with India. Recently, our elephant Benni has been resplendent in his new splendid garb.



*Elephant "Benni" in his new outfit*



# 50 YEARS “THEATER AM FADEN”



The old winemaker’s house in Hasenstrasse (since 1989) on the edge of Stuttgart’s centre is a place that has fallen out of time. A winding ensemble of buildings, you enter through a small, somewhat overgrown courtyard and inside you come to a “messy” paradise. There are narrow corridors, mysterious side rooms, colourfully embroidered curtains and everywhere figures, sculptures, pictures. For the children - and not only for them - a marvellous world to touch, smell, discover, hide, disguise, wander around and play in. And then head to the performance space to watch.

Helga Brehme studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Stuttgart and at the Academy of Musical Arts in Prague. In 1972, she opened the Theater am Faden (theatre on thread) in Stuttgart’s Heslach district on Böblinger Strasse and ran it together with her husband Karl Rettenbacher.

Over the years, Theater am Faden has been a guest in many countries and many international artists have performed in Stuttgart. Since 1981, Indian classical music and dance has been an integral part of the program with 30–50 concerts a year.

Since 1994, the theatre has been invited by the artists to tour India more than twenty times with about 160 per-

formances in front of an audience of about 50,000 people. For her services to puppet theatre and international cultural exchange, Helga Brehme was awarded the Medal of Merit of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany. The ceremony with the awarding of the medal by the Secretary of State in the Ministry of Art of Baden-Württemberg took place in May 2022.

An anniversary festival with puppetry, music and films was held from June 23<sup>rd</sup> to July 4<sup>th</sup>.

At the Indian Film Festival in Stuttgart there will be two documentary films by Nawab Khan (Raga Welfare Foundation) in cooperation with Helga Brehme (Theater am Faden) on Thursday July 21<sup>st</sup> at 19:00 in the festival cinema, plus a talk featuring Nawab Khan and Helga Brehme and classical Indian music.

In the supporting program of the Indian Film Festival Stuttgart at Theater am Faden:

Classical Indian Kathak Dance Tejaswini Sathe and Group, on Saturday July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 20:00 and on Sunday July 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:00.

*Text: Theater am Faden*



*Open Air Kathputli performance (Source: Theater am Faden)*



*Award of the Medal of Merit of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany by State Secretary Petra Olschowski to Helga Brehme (Source: Theater am Faden)*

# HIMIDIPI

*HimiDipi, an EdTech initiative from Augsburg, run by Himadri Ketu Sanyal and Dipti Tambe works on integration of expats.*

The founders, with degrees in German studies from JNU, New Delhi and with vast experience as teachers of language and culture, strongly believe that knowing a language and exchanging ideas in that sociolinguistic environment are fundamental to integration in a society. With this conviction, they started HimiDipi in October 2020 to teach German from the perspective of non-natives. They regularly conduct intercultural events. The HiDi App connects learners to trainers and peers to practice language with guided material and provides a platform for expats, especially women, to exchange ideas and network. HimiDipi therefore designs digital solutions to fulfil com-

munication and networking requirements of expats with focus on communication needs of female expats for social and professional advancement. They thus work to eradicate the problem of isolation in a foreign land and to support expats make it their new home.

*Text: HimiDipi*



*HimiDipi Online Exchange*

## INAUGURAL VISIT TO THE INDIAN EMBASSY IN BERLIN

The Indian Embassy in Germany has been in existence since 1952. On January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2001, the Indian Embassy was officially opened at its current location at Tiergartenstraße 16/17 in Berlin. Next to the Baden-Württemberg mission, the red building catches attention. The building gets its distinctive color from the red Barauli sandstones, which come from the Dholpur region in Rajasthan. These were also used centuries ago to build the Red Fort in Agra. The national emblem of India is enthroned at the entrance and the corresponding inscription “Truth alone triumphs” is carved in Sanskrit. Visitors are greeted by a shallow water installation outside. Some of the water reappears inside the building, even making its way to the upper floor.

The Indian Embassy regularly hosts cultural and business events for the Indian diaspora and other interested people. The team of the Indian Honorary Consulate Stuttgart was invited to the Indian Embassy in Berlin on July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The aim of the meeting with the Embassy staff was to introduce the new team from Stuttgart and to exchange information about the work of the Honorary Consulate. Above all, it was important to get to know the different

divisions and contact persons of the Indian Embassy. The Honorary Consulate thanks for the friendly reception and is looking forward to a successful cooperation.



*Schemaja Eisele and Joelle Mittnacht in front of the Indian Embassy in Berlin*

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### **New Team at the Honorary Consulate of India Stuttgart**

Since May 2022, Ms. Joelle Mittnacht has been the head of the Honorary Consulate of India in Stuttgart. She has taken over this position from Ms. Maria Dobritsch. Ms. Mittnacht has already been part of LAPP since December 2019 and is responsible for the representation of interests at the Stuttgart location.

After her bachelor's degree in media and communication studies at the University of Mannheim, she successfully completed her master's degree in corporate communications with a focus on global communications at Stuttgart Media University. Ms. Mittnacht is looking forward to the exciting activities at the Honorary Consulate of India and numerous new encounters.



*New Head of the Honorary Consulate of India, Joelle Mittnacht*

Also in May 2022, Mr. Schemaja Eisele took up his position as Project Officer at the Honorary Consulate of India in Stuttgart. Mr. Eisele is responsible for the operational business of the Honorary Consulate, the support of the Indian diaspora and partner organizations as well as event management.

He completed his trilingual studies in International Management at the ESB Business School in Reutlingen and the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Piacenza. Subsequently, Mr. Eisele gained relevant professional experience in an international context, including the Indian subcontinent. With his Swabian-Indian roots, Mr. Eisele brings with him the best prerequisites for his work at the Honorary Consulate of India in Stuttgart.



*New Project Officer of the Honorary Consulate of India, Schemaja Eisele*

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### **75 Years of Independence – Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (Elixir of Freedom Festival)**

To celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> year of Independence in a befitting manner, the Government of India initiated the Freedom Festival “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav” from March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Already, over 40,000 events have been registered on the official website [www.amritmahotsav.nic.in](http://www.amritmahotsav.nic.in) to celebrate and honour India's 75 years of Independence and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements. The celebrations include various programs, performances, rallies, communal festivals, and much more. It is not only about the past, but also about the India of today



and the India of the future under the theme “Aatmanirbhar Bharat”, which means “Self-reliant India”. A highlight of the “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav” will be this year's Independence Day on August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

## → DATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS →

- 15. – 24.07.2022 Indian Summer Stuttgart
- 19. – 22.07.2022 Art exhibition “Indian Encounters”
- 20.07.2022 German–Indian Round Table
- 20. – 24.07.2022 Indian Film Festival Stuttgart
- 22. – 24.07.2022 India Summer Days Karlsruhe
- 06.10.2022 German–Indian Round Table
- 03. – 05.02.2023 Wine festival STUTTGART MEETS MUMBAI 2023



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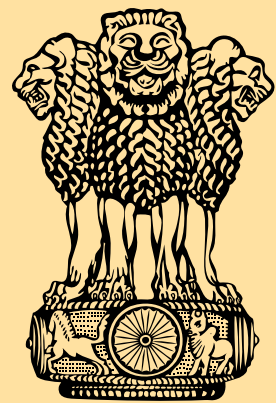
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