



NEWSLETTER 2023

Issue 13

Indian Honorary Consulate Stuttgart



INDO-GERMAN PARTNERSHIP INTENSIFIED

After the forced pandemic break, we finally celebrated the traditional wine festival "Stuttgart meets Mumbai" in our Indian twin city again. It was a revival of the exchange between Stuttgart and Mumbai as well as Baden-Württemberg and Maharashtra. Various delegations with a total of 120 participants and numerous guests from India and Germany enjoyed the personal encounter in the metropolis of Mumbai with a glass of wine from Baden-Württemberg.

Our two countries are getting closer and closer, as you can read in two reports in this newsletter about ministerial visits from India to Baden-Württemberg.

I see new and fruitful collaborations as skilled workers from India are of great importance. Many young, well-educated Indian professionals are just waiting to enrich the German labour market. On the other hand, India invites German SMEs (Mittelstand) to explore the opportunities on the subcontinent.

At the same time, interest in Germany among Indians has grown strongly in recent years. This is evident from the increasing number of visa applications and applications for study places in Germany.

This newsletter gives you an overview about the projects and activities of the past months and a preview of what lies ahead. I look forward to welcoming you to one or the other event.

From 17th to 23rd July, the Indian Summer and the 20th Indian Film Festival will take place again in Stuttgart, as well as the India Summer Days in Karlsruhe. Please also note the date 13th to 15th October for the 70th anniversary of the Indo-German Society. I am very pleased to announce another anniversary: the 20th wine festival "Stuttgart meets Mumbai" from 9th to 10th February 2024.

Yours sincerely

Andreas Lapp

Honorary Consul of the Republic of India

for Baden-Wuerttemberg and Rhineland-Palatinate

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THE WINE FESTIVAL “STUTTART MEETS MUMBAI IS BACK AGAIN”

After a two-year pandemic, the wine festival “Stuttart meets Mumbai” finally returned.

The Honorary Consulate of the Republic of India for Baden-Wuerttemberg and Rhineland-Palatinate, together with the state capital Stuttgart, organised the 19th edition of the event at the Hotel Taj Lands End in Mumbai. Mumbai and Stuttgart have been twinned for 55 years. Workshops, dance performances and a live cooking were part of the diverse programme and inspired guests from business, politics, film and media, tourism, education and gastronomy for “THE LAND”.

“With the wine festival, we celebrate the friendship between Germany and India and the 55-year city partnership between Stuttgart and Mumbai. And I know from my own experience that the best contacts can be made at a relaxed meeting with good conversation and typical local specialities. And that is important to me,” says Andreas Lapp, Honorary Consul of the Republic of India for Baden-Wuerttemberg and Rhineland-Palatinate. In addition to the approximately 2,500 guests from Germany and India, a large delegation of representatives from the state government with Minister of State Dr. Florian Stegmann, the state capital Stuttgart with Mayor Thomas Fuhrmann and the city of Karlsruhe with Lord Mayor Dr. Frank Men-
trup attended the wine festival.



Honorary Consul and host Andreas Lapp opens the wine festival together with viticulture expert Rolf Hauser



Various partners inform visitors about their services



Guests of honour with Honorary Consul Andreas Lapp and Minister of State Dr. Florian Stegmann in the centre. In the back on the left German Consul General Achim Fabig and on the far right Matthias Lapp, Chairman of the Board of LAPP.



Hector Dsouza informs seminar visitors about tourist destinations in and around the state capital Stuttgart



Mayor Thomas Fuhrmann (m.) supports the chefs Patrick Baumgartner (l.) and Marcel Laversa (r.) in preparing the apple fritters.



Wine festival visitors enjoy the special flair with varied entertainment



Guests of honour enjoy a good view of the stage

The first day began with a workshop by Lapp India Pvt. Ltd. on the topic of *Sustainability as a practice for organizations*. In addition to various presentations on practical examples, there was the opportunity for direct exchange with the experts after the panel discussion. Parallel to this, important personalities from the film business and filmmakers accepted an invitation by the Filmbüro Baden-Württemberg e.V. to exchange ideas about the Indian Film Festival in Stuttgart and other projects.

On the second day, the German Consulate General in Mumbai, led by Consul General Achim Fabig, hosted a roundtable discussion. The German political delegations, Consul General Achim Fabig, Honorary Consul Andreas Lapp and the Minister of Education, Deepak Kesarkar, exchanged views on the topic of *Attracting skilled workers*. In the morning, the state capital Stuttgart also organized a very well-attended seminar for tour operators on the topic of *Travel tips for picturesque Stuttgart – gateway to southwest*



Stage programme with colourful and multi-faceted Indian dance performances



The Original DoppelRadler Musikanten create a good atmosphere



Minister of State Dr. Stegmann informs Maharashtra's Minister of Education, Deepak Kesarkar, about the partner state Baden-Württemberg at "THE LÄND" stand



Guests enjoy the evening with a variety of wines

Germany, and the University of Stuttgart presented projects in cooperation with St. Xavier's College Mumbai and promoted further collaboration and partnerships between the universities and schools of both countries. For the refined senses, the wine delegation led by Rolf Hauser offered *Wine tasting* with selected wines from the Weinsberg State Winery on both afternoons.

During the early summer temperatures, numerous wines were served on the festival grounds, from Good Drop Wine Cellars, Desaal and Virgin Hills from India as well as from the Baden-Württemberg wineries Berthold, Alexander Heinrich, Unser, Wöhrwag, the Winery of the City of Stuttgart and the State Winery Weinsberg. Culinary highlights

of Swabian and Indian cuisine were served to match: pretzels, Spätzle and Maultaschen alongside fish curry, lentils and biryani. During the live cooking show on stage, German chefs Patrick Baumgartner and Marcel Laversa created a traditional Swabian apple pie with the support of Stuttgart's business mayor Thomas Fuhrmann. The guests were accompanied by an entertaining German and Indian stage programme of Swabian folk music and Indian dance.

Get an idea of this year's wine festival for yourself. We have provided you with a video on our YouTube channel.



MINISTER OF INDUSTRIES FROM MAHARASHTRA VISITS STUTT GART

High-ranking visitor in Stuttgart. Uday Samant, Hon. Minister of Industries for the Indian state of Maharashtra, visited the state capital of Stuttgart on his way to Switzerland and learned about Lapp Mobility GmbH's charging solutions for electric vehicles from the world market leader for integrated solutions in the field of cable and connection technology.

The delegation around the Minister of Industries was received at the European headquarters of U.I. Lapp GmbH by the board members and managing directors of the LAPP company on 15th January 2023. During the tour, Andreas Lapp, owner and Honorary Consul of the Republic of India for Baden-Wuerttemberg and Rhineland-Palatinate, emphasised the great importance of Lapp Mobility GmbH for the family-owned company. Main customers are already Jaguar Land Rover, Hyundai, Kia, Mazda, Ford, Toyota and Genesis as well as charging infrastructure/wallbox providers, such as Pracht or also Sixt as fleet

operator. "I drive an electric car myself with great enthusiasm. And with our innovative charging solutions, we are definitely making an important contribution to giving electric mobility a further boost," Andreas Lapp revealed.

Following the visit to LAPP, an investor meeting took place in the presence of representatives of the state capital Stuttgart, the State Ministry and representatives from the business community.

For the Indian delegation, the Indian Honorary Consulate had organised and accompanied a programme in the state capital on the following day. In addition to a guided tour of the Mercedes-Benz Museum, the delegation received a personal welcome at the Stuttgart Trade Fair Centre and visited the CMT holiday trade fair, the world's largest public trade fair for tourism and leisure.



Minister of Industries Uday Samant with Honorary Consul Andreas Lapp and board members and managing directors of LAPP



Andreas Lapp presents LAPP's charging solutions to Industries Minister Uday Samant.

CELEBRATIONS ON THE OCCASION OF THE REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA

On 17th February 2023, Andreas Lapp, Honorary Consul of the Republic of India for Baden-Wuerttemberg and Rhine-land-Palatinate, invited guests to Stuttgart for the Republic Day celebrations.

In addition to 300 guests from the Indo-German society in and around Stuttgart, Honorary Consul Lapp welcomed Baden-Wuerttemberg's Minister of State Dr. Florian Stegmann, Stuttgart's Mayor for Economic Affairs Thomas Fuhrmann and Karlsruhe's Mayor for Culture Dr. Albert Käuflein. They spoke not only about their political connections to India, but also about their very recent and personal experiences in India around the wine festival STUTTGART MEETS MUMBAI.

The Indian Ambassador H.E. Mr. Harish Parvathaneni from Berlin and the Consul General Mr. Mohit Yadav

from Munich delivered a video message for the Indian and German guests.

Frazan Adil Kotwal sang the Indian national anthem and the song "Yours is my whole heart" in Hindi, English and German. He was accompanied by Yu Tashiro on the grand piano. Andreas Lapp did not miss the opportunity to ask for an encore, which the two musicians gladly complied with.

The programme was rounded off by Sawani Pathwardan, who took the audience on a journey to North India with her traditional dance performance.

After the official programme, all present enjoyed Indian food and were able to share their experiences and highlights of Indo-German life.



Honorary Consul Andreas Lapp welcomes all guests to the Republic Day of India celebrations



(From left to right) Minister of State Dr. Stegmann with daughter, Honorary Consul Andreas Lapp, Mayor Thomas Fuhrmann and Mayor Dr. Albert Käuflein at the traditional lighting of the oil lamp



Sawani Pathwardan performs a traditional Indian dance



Frazan Adil Kotwal sings "Yours is my whole heart" with fervour in three languages

GERMAN-INDIAN ROUND TABLE IN APRIL



At the German-Indian Round Table (GIRT) in April, Peter Friedrich, Managing Director of the Stuttgart District Chamber of Skilled Crafts, spoke on the topic of “Indo-German partnership in training and retaining skilled workers”.

In the subsequent exchange round, each participant contributed their own experiences and projects on this topic. The host, Honorary Consul Andreas Lapp, emphasised that this topic should not start in vocational training or with professionals, but much earlier. Therefore, the Honorary Consul supports Indo-German school exchange programmes to bring young people closer to various cultures and ways of life and to awaken their interest and understanding for the other. The President of the Education and Schools Department of the Stuttgart Regional Council, Ms. Claudia Rugart, confirmed the importance of school partnerships and student exchanges, from which companies would later also benefit.

When it comes to recruiting and integrating trainees and skilled workers, many parties are naturally involved. The

former German Consul General in Mumbai, Dr. Jürgen Morhard, provided insight into the political and consular aspects.

Andreas Reifsteck, Managing Director of the District Chamber of Skilled Crafts Karlsruhe Region, also presented craft.ROADSHOW India. This initiative aims to get Indians interested in vocational training in German companies. More on this on page 11.

An evening with inspiring personalities, projects and topics of conversation that will certainly be remembered for a long time. The Honorary Consulate of India in Stuttgart looks forward to future projects and cooperation between Germany and India.

Worth knowing: It was Peter Friedrich who, as Minister for the Bundesrat, Europe and International Affairs of Baden-Wuerttemberg, signed the partnership agreement between the federal state and Maharashtra in 2015.



Host Andreas Lapp between former Consul General Dr. Jürgen Morhard (l.) and speaker Peter Friedrich (r.)



Lively exchange among GIRT participants

FIRST DEREGULATORY STEPS TO OPEN UP THE LEGAL MARKET IN INDIA

For 20 years, there have been efforts to open up the Indian legal market. The lawyers Dr. Thomas R. Klötzel and Robin Kienitz wrote an article in “Recht der Internationalen Wirtschaft” 2023, issue 05, on the current deregulation steps to open the legal market in India. If you are interested in the full article, please contact info@honorarkonsulat-indien.de.



HIGH-RANKING DELEGATION FROM TAMIL NADU VISITS BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG



At the beginning of May this year, the Stuttgart Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry, together with the Indian Honorary Consulate in Stuttgart, received a high-ranking delegation from Tamil Nadu.

Representatives of the Ministry of Industry, the Government of Tamil Nadu, the Tamil Nadu Industry Promotion Corporation (SIPCOT) and Tamil Nadu Guidance presented the southern Indian state.

More than 85 German companies are already successfully operating in Tamil Nadu, including in the auto city of Chennai. The space provided by the government and the special promotion are intended to attract more companies as well as research and development centres to Tamil Nadu. An excellent infrastructure with international airports and five seaports as well as the large number of well-trained junior professionals are only two of many advantages.



Delegation from Tamil Nadu as well as representatives of the Stuttgart Region Chamber of Industry and Commerce and a representative of the Indian Honorary Consulate in Stuttgart

The Tamil Nadu state government is planning a major investor conference for 10th January 2024.

SCHOOL VISIT FROM MUMBAI IN STUTTGART

The Eberhard-Ludwigs-Gymnasium in Stuttgart and St. Francis College in Mumbai have had a special relationship for 12 years. Not even the corona virus could stop them.

The need for cultural exchange remained even during the pandemic. After a three-year forced break due to COVID-19, students from the Eberhard-Ludwigs-Gymnasium (Ebelu) in Stuttgart and St. Francis College in Mumbai, India, now visited each other again. A group of Ebelu students received a return visit in mid-May after travelling to Mumbai in January. 17 Indian students arrived in Stuttgart accompanied by the headmaster and two teachers. In Stuttgart-West, the group was warmly welcomed with small gifts, dance performances and the sophisticated musical display that characterises a music high-school. Also present were Ebelu headmaster Mario Zecher and the Indian Honorary Consul Andreas Lapp. He supported this exchange because: "It is important to establish contacts



School exchange group of the Eberhard-Ludwigs-Gymnasium and St. Francis College with Honorary Consul Andreas Lapp

already at school." Because at a young age, people are very open to this.

VISIT OF THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION FROM THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA

In May, Hon. Shri Minister Deepak Vasant Kesarkar (Cabinet Minister for Education and Marathi in the State Government of Maharashtra, India) visited the Stuttgart Region Chamber of Skilled Crafts with his delegation and together with the Indian Consul General Mohit Yadav from Munich.

The delegation presented the Indian education system and the potentials in the state of Maharashtra, the partner state of Baden-Wuerttemberg. There are currently more than 22 million pupils in Maharashtra alone.

The Education Minister repeatedly emphasised the importance of the visit to Stuttgart, as his government wants to expand the education system in Maharashtra. In order to take the right steps, he wants to know from Germany how young Indians can and should be educated to create added value for India and Germany. Germany has a shortage of vocational trainees and skilled workers, whereas India has a very young population for whom jobs need to be created.

The friendly exchange between the Minister of Education and the Chamber of Skilled Crafts was about deepening trust, understanding the different education systems better and capturing initial ideas on how dual education can be implemented and developed in India towards counteracting the shortage of young people in Germany.

At the end of his visit to Baden-Wuerttemberg, Deepak Kesarkar was received by Minister of State Dr. Florian Stegmann in Stuttgart. They thus continued the dialogue that began at the wine festival STUTTGART MEETS MUMBAI – organised by LAPP and the City of Stuttgart – in Mumbai in February this year.

Minister Kesarkar wants to further deepen the long-standing relations between Germany and India and sees the partner states of Baden-Wuerttemberg and Maharashtra as a driving force for both nations. Minister Kesarkar's goal is to further develop the curricula in Maharashtra and introduce international and German standards. This should help to educate Indian youth even better and also make them fit for skilled trades, which are sufficiently available in Germany.

Minister of State Dr. Florian Stegmann, Minister of Education Deepak Kesarkar and Minister of Education Theresa Schopper agreed to draft a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen the interdepartmental skilled labour initiative between Maharashtra and Baden-Wuerttemberg. A task force is to be set up on both sides to work closely together.



Minister of Education Deepak Kesarkar from Maharashtra visits the Stuttgart Region Chamber of Skilled Crafts



(From left to right) Minister of State Dr. Florian Stegmann, Minister of Education Deepak Kesarkar, Minister of Education Theresa Schopper, Consul General Mohit Yadav

TRADITIONAL ANNUAL MEETING OF THE INDO-GERMAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The traditional annual meeting of the Indo-German Chamber of Commerce was held on 14th June 2023, this year hosted by DZ BANK AG in Frankfurt. Indian Ambassador Harish Parvathaneni and German Ambassador Dr. Philip Ackermann addressed 150 participants from both countries. One could sense their great passion for Indo-German cooperation. The good climate between the two countries is evident from numerous ministerial visits by Germany to India as well as support programmes such as "Make in India

Mittelstand" (MIIM) by the Indian Embassy in Berlin and projects in the handicraft sector.

Furthermore, Ambassador Dr. Ackermann emphasised that Germany is becoming increasingly popular among Indians, as evidenced by the 250,000 visa applications this year. In addition to the 35,000 Indian students in Germany, another 30,000 student applications are currently being processed at the German Embassy in New Delhi.



Indian Ambassador Harish Parvathaneni addressing the 150 participants



According to German Ambassador Dr. Philip Ackermann, the many ministerial delegations of the German government send a strong and positive signal to India

INDIAN ENTREPRENEUR DELEGATION VISITS LAPP

At the beginning of June, LAPP hosted an Indian delegation from the Stuttgart Chamber of Industry and Commerce as part of the Manager Training Programme of the Federal Ministry of Economics and Climate Protection.

After a short company presentation, Global Innovation Manager Freya Stonawski provided a unique insight into

innovation management at LAPP. This was followed by a factory tour at Lapp GmbH Kabelwerke and at Lapp Mobility GmbH.

Following the presentation of the Indian Honorary Consulate and the Indian Business Center in Stuttgart, the visit ended with refreshing mango lassi and Indian snacks.



The Indian delegation of the Stuttgart Region Chamber of Industry and Commerce visits LAPP



Insight into LAPP Mobility GmbH

INITIATIVE CRAFT.ROADSHOW TO STRENGTHEN THE CRAFT SECTOR

The “craft.ROADSHOW” is a project of the Karlsruhe Region Association of Skilled Crafts and the City of Karlsruhe’s Economic Development Department under the patronage of Theresa Schopper, Minister of Education and Cultural Affairs of the State of Baden-Wuerttemberg. The Karlsruhe University of Education is advising those responsible for the project. The completely new craft.ROADSHOW is an effective and target-group-oriented way of promoting vocational training in the skilled trades at schools in the Karlsruhe region.

The initiator Andreas Reifsteck, Managing Director of the Karlsruhe Region Association of Skilled Crafts, was part of the delegation of Karlsruhe’s Lord Mayor Dr. Frank Men-
trup in India at the beginning of the year. Another aim of

the craft.ROADSHOW is to inspire German craft enterprises to recruit skilled workers and trainees from India, as well as to specifically invite the sought-after skilled workers in India to the craft sector in Germany. Honorary Consul Andreas Lapp supports this initiative of Indo-German co-operation.

Further information at: www.craft-roadshow.de



NEWS IN BRIEF

Announcement 70th anniversary of Indo-German Society (DIG)

SAVE THE DATE



INDIA DAYS

of the Indo-German Society (DIG) and
the India Foundation of DIG

13th – 15th October 2023

LAPP Europazentrale • Schulze-Delitzsch-Strasse 29 • 70565 Stuttgart

1953 – 2023



DEUTSCH-INDISCHE
GESELLSCHAFT
E.V.



BEGEGNUNGEN,
die begeistern

→ DATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS →

- **17. – 23.07.2023** Indian Summer Stuttgart
- **19. – 21.07.2023** Art Exhibition “Indian Encounters”
- **19.07.2023** New HOMELÄND Baden-Württemberg
(discussion with Minister of State Dr. Florian Stegmann)
- **19. – 23.07.2023** 20th Indian Film Festival Stuttgart
- **21. – 23.07.2023** India Summer Days Karlsruhe
- **13. – 15.10.2023** India Days & 70 Years Indo-German Society (DIG)
- **19.10.2023** German-Indian Round Table
- **09. – 10.02.2024** 20th Wine Festival STUTTGART MEETS MUMBAI
- **23.02.2024** Celebrations on the occasion of the “Republic Day of India”
in Stuttgart



PUBLISHING DETAILS

Publisher:
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for Baden-Wuerttemberg and Rhineland-Palatinate

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Layout:
Natascha Saupe

Frequency of publication:
Half-yearly

Publication Date:
July 2023



सत्यमेव जयते

Indisches Honorarkonsulat
Stuttgart