



# NEWSLETTER 2019

Issue 4

## Indian Honorary Consulate Stuttgart



### WHAT HAPPENED, WHAT IS COMING, WHAT REMAINS?

2018 was and is a great anniversary year. For more than five decades, Stuttgart and Mumbai have been partner cities. It is the first documented link between a German and an Indian city. It is a trusting partnership that has visibly grown over the years. It is a vibrant friendship through and through – and a real reason to celebrate!

Even the start of the anniversary year was sensational: the guest concert by the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra, which performed together with the Symphony Orchestra of India, ended in standing ovations on 1 February 2018 in Mumbai. A glass was raised to the important anniversary at the STUTTGART MEETS MUMBAI wine festival. And at the Indian Summer and Indian Film Festival Stuttgart, the focus was also on the flagship partnership. In short, 2018 – the anniversary year – has inspired everyone for the next 50 years.

As part of the 15th wine festival at the beginning of February 2019, there is already the next opportunity to consolidate the German/Indian friendship. Let us make full use of this chance once again, so that the special partnership between the two great cities of Stuttgart and Mumbai can continue to grow brilliantly and thrive as in the past 50 years.

Yours sincerely,

Andreas Lapp

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

### CONTENTS

#### Editorial

WHAT HAPPENED, WHAT IS COMING, WHAT REMAINS?

Indian Film Festival Stuttgart 2018  
THE STAGE IS SET FOR INDIAN  
CINEMATOGRAPHY

→ p. 2

#### Interview

INTERVIEW WITH FESTIVAL  
PRESIDENT

OLIVER MAHN → p. 4

German-Indian Round Table Stuttgart  
A WELL-ROUNDED DISCUSSION → p. 5

Indian Summer Stuttgart  
SEVEN DAYS OF INDIA → p. 6

#### News in brief

Dates and announcements

Publishing details

→ p. 8

# THE STAGE IS SET FOR INDIAN CINEMATOGRAPHY

*For 15 years, the Indian Film Festival Stuttgart has been fixed in the cultural calendar of the state capital, as well in the hearts of many cinema and India fans. From 18 to 22 July 2018, once again over 6,000 visitors flocked to the largest Indian film festival in Europe to widen their horizons and take a look at 45 current films from the Indian subcontinent.*



*Large crowds at the opening of the Indian Film Festival Stuttgart 2018*

Love, partnership and relationships – these were the focal points of the five-day festival. Against the background of the 50-year city partnership between Stuttgart and Mumbai, there was also a particular focus placed on films that provided an insight into life in the mega metropolis of Mumbai. One novelty this year was the close linking of the film programme with the Tea Talks, sponsored by the Robert Bosch Stiftung.

The “German Star of India” festival prize in the feature film category went to director Rahul Nair for his drama “Ottamuri Velicham – Light in the Room”, which examines the taboo topic of marital rape. “Pawasacha Nibandhi – An Essay of the Rain” by Nagraj Manjule was honoured in the documentary film category. Anushka Meenakshi stood out with her contribution “Kho Ki Pa Lü – Up Down & Sideways” in the documentary film category. And the Director’s Vision Award went to Siddhartha Jatla for the feature film “Love and Shukla”.

This year, the film festival was honoured by Petra Oschowski, State Secretary of Baden-Württemberg, Mukta Dutta Tomar, Her Excellency the Indian Ambassador to Germany, Dr Frank Mentrup, Mayor of Karlsruhe, as well as Dr Birgit Schneider-Bönninger, Head of the Cultural Department of Stuttgart.

*Stuttgart’s Mayor (retired) Dr Wolfgang Schuster on the red carpet*



*From left to right: Festival President Oliver Mahn, State Secretary Petra Oschowski, H.E. Mukta Dutta Tomar, Indian Ambassador, Dr Frank Mentrup, Mayor of Karlsruhe, and Honorary Consul Andreas Lapp*







*A group photo of all the guests of honour on the red carpet*

*Above: Welcome address from Festival President Oliver Mahn*

*Below: Film star Geetanjali Thapa on the red carpet*

*Above: H.E. Mukta Dutta Tomar, Indian Ambassador, writes in the guest book*

*Below: Honorary Consul Andreas Lapp on the red carpet*



# INTERVIEW WITH FESTIVAL PRESIDENT OLIVER MAHN

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*50 films in five days, and every day the question of whether the sun will come out or will it rain?*

*In an interview, Oliver Mahn, who has been Festival President of the Indian Film Festival in Stuttgart for 15 years, explains why he still remains relaxed.*



*Festival President Oliver Mahn*

## **When you think about the festival, is your stomach still in knots?**

When I think about the Indian Film Festival, generally, my stomach does not get twisted in knots but I rather have a pleasant, warm feeling. I have a real affinity with India. This is certainly due to the numerous friendships and contacts to India that have arisen in the last 15 years, and that I don't want to do without.

During the festival, you always have a thousand things running through your head, including the question: rain or sun? Here, you can't really say what is good and what is bad. If it rains, people will perhaps rather go to the cinema, or maybe they don't leave home at all. If the sun is out, they may prefer to leave the house, but they might not choose the cinema. So a monsoon feeling isn't necessarily so bad for business – you can at least sell the rain as a special accompanying programme. You can always find something positive about it, depending on how you twist and use it.

## **How large is the team behind the festival?**

The permanent team in the film office is not that large; currently, it is comprised of six employees, some of whom work part time. During the festival itself there are a whole host of interns, aids and volunteers, as well as friends and executives. This can be a challenge and you sometimes wish there were two of you, or more. But luckily there is a final way to achieve things – if the day is not enough, then you also have to use the night.

## **Is it difficult to get good films?**

Word gets around about quality and, as in every sector, brand products are more expensive than goods off the shelf. The Indian Film Festival Stuttgart fundamentally has a great reputation amongst the film producers in India – but negotiations are nevertheless tricky.

## **The great stars have made themselves scarce. Is it still possible to pay for such artists today?**

In previous years, certain actors came to Stuttgart whose careers were taking off back then, and who today certainly have a film star status. This includes, for example, Rajkummar Rao, Tannishtha Chatterjee or Nawazuddin Siddiqui, to name but a few.

## **Are there already any ideas for the Indian Film Festival Stuttgart 2019 and the future?**

As a festival creator, you cannot rest on your laurels. Next year, we are going to dedicate more focus to the relationships between India and Stuttgart, Baden-Württemberg, Germany and Europe. The film programme is also to be expanded by the section "Making of Indian Cinema".



# A WELL-ROUNDED DISCUSSION

*The German-Indian Round Table (GIRT) has been meeting regularly since 2001 to exchange experiences. Comprising German and Indian business figures and managers, the Stuttgart-based group discusses current issues related to India in a relaxed atmosphere over good food. Information events related to India also often feature. We take a look back.*

Her Excellency the Indian Ambassador, Mukta Dutta Tomar, was a guest of honour at the round table on 18 July 2018 and reported on current German-Indian economic relations at the well-attended round table.

“Half a year before the national elections of the largest democracy in the world – an economic and political analysis of Narendra Modi’s government” was the topic outlined by India expert Pradnya Bivalkar on 11 October 2018. The talk provided a look back at the politics of the previous four years under Narendra Modi and made forecasts for the future.



*Honorary Consul Andreas Lapp greets the participants*



*From left to right: Dr Frank Mentrup, Mayor of Karlsruhe, H.E. Mukta Dutta Tomar, Indian Ambassador, and Honorary Consul Andreas Lapp at GIRT on 18 July 2018*

# SEVEN DAYS OF INDIA

*As part of the Indian Film Festival Stuttgart, each year the Honorary Consulate presents the "Indian Summer" event series in July. Everything is related to India – from traditional dance and music, to exhibitions and specialist talks, right up to workshops. With a view to the 50-year city partnership between Stuttgart and Mumbai, this year there was a lot on offer in particular. We take a look back.*



*From top to bottom: Indian evening hosted by Indo-German Society e.V.*



From 16 to 22 July, the Indian Summer once again attracted fans of culture and India from near and far. Everything started with the exhibition from the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of India "Indian Encounters 2018", which gave an insight into the work of young artists and their discussion about India. Under the title "Views of a city: Mumbai" the City of Stuttgart presented a photo exhibition from the Goethe-Institut Mumbai. At the Theater am Faden classical Indian instruments were demonstrated and concerts held.

Traditional Indian music could be heard in the Lindenmuseum. There was an Indian evening at the Häussler Bürgerforum. A charity concert specially for children in India was also held in the Klosterkirche Bad Herrenalb. Atelier Brückner, which also carries out projects in India, provided insights into its conception for space and architecture. In Hospitalhof the talk on "German and Indian perspectives" dealt with the future of modern cities. And in the Landwirtschaftsmuseum, visitors could expect a talk about educational partnerships.

*Above: Podium discussion at Creative Days Stuttgart*

*Below: The Consul General of India, Sugandh Rajaram, welcomes guests to the Creative Days Stuttgart*







*Dance event at Theater am Faden*

*Above: Talk by the Verein zur Förderung entwicklungswichtiger Vorhaben e. V.*

*Below: Vernissage and exhibition "Indian Encounters"*

*From top to bottom: Below: Vernissage and exhibition "Indian Encounters"*





## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Hon'ble Minister Pradhan at LAPP

On 22 June 2018, Dharmendra Pradhan, Indian Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, together with H.E. Mukta Dutta Tomar, Indian Ambassador to Germany, visited the LAPP headquarters in Stuttgart to gain information about the German education system. The Honorary Consulate of the Republic of India organised and supported the high-ranking visit.



*Matthias Lapp, CEO U.I. Lapp GmbH (l) guides Minister Dharmendra Pradhan through the LAPP manufacturing plant*



*Minister Dharmendra Pradhan talking to trainees*

## NEWS IN BRIEF



*The Mayor of Mumbai Vishwanath Mahadeshwar (centre) in the LAPP training centre*

### Delegation from Mumbai in Stuttgart

For the 50th anniversary of the city partnership between Stuttgart and Mumbai, at the beginning of 2018 a delegation from the city of Stuttgart visited the Indian partner city. In September 2018, the return visit took place. Led by Vishwanath Mahadeshwar, Mayor of Mumbai, an 8-person delegation of political representatives travelled to Stuttgart. The highlight of the programme was an invitation from Mayor Fritz Kuhn to an official ceremony in the town hall. Further points on the programme were a visit to the library at Mailänder Platz, to the main sewage treatment plant of Stuttgart, to the LAPP company, as well as the Indian Business Center Stuttgart. Both sides agreed to continue deepening the different facets of the partnership.



*The Mayor of Mumbai Vishwanath Mahadeshwar (centre) writes in the guest book*



*Naming ceremony for a tram with the name "Mumbai"*



*Mayor Vishwanath Mahadeshwar (l) and Mayor Fritz Kuhn*

## DATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **01 – 02/02/2019**  
15th Stuttgart Meets Mumbai wine festival
- **15/02/2019**  
Festivities for India's national day
- **Spring 2019**  
GIRT Stuttgart
- **15 – 21/07/2019**  
Indian Summer Week Stuttgart
- **17 – 21/07/2019**  
Indian Film Festival Stuttgart

## PUBLISHING DETAILS

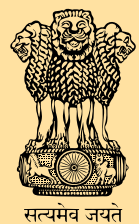
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