

HIGHLIGHTS:

- ADB Annual Meet in Frankfurt
- Visit of Hon'ble Finance Minister to Frankfurt
- Visit of Hon'ble Union Minister for Housing and Development Shri Venkaiah Naidu
- Indian Business Forum Reception

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FM visits for the 49th ADB Annual Meeting in Frankfurt

The 49th Annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank was held in Frankfurt from 1-5 May 2016. In this context, Hon'ble Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley visited Frankfurt on 4th May 2016 and attended the 49th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank. The Hon'ble Minister attended the first Business Session of the Board of Governors where he made a statement. He also held meetings with the delegates of many other countries including that of Germany during his visit. Hon'ble Finance Minister was also a part of a televised panel discussion by CNBC where he spoke about the changing India and its growth potential.



Hon'ble FM (3rd from Left) at CNBC panel discussion at ADB Summit

India Business Forum reception



Ambassador & CG with KAS delegation

On 3rd May 2016, an IBF lunch reception was hosted by the Consulate General of India in Frankfurt. During the reception, participants also got a chance to interact with members of a visiting KAS (Konrad Adenauer Stiftung) delegation that consisted of eminent personalities from India in the field of politics and economics. Ambassador of India Shri Gurjit Singh also held a briefing session for the delegation where he touched on the important issues in the Indo-German bilateral relations.

Forthcoming events:

25 June: International
Yoga Day celebrations in
Bonn

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Union Minister M Venkaiah Naidu visits Germany



Hon'ble Minister in Berlin

Hon'ble Union Minister for Housing and Development Shri Venkaiah Naidu visited Berlin to discuss development of Smart Cities in collaboration with Germany. Here he can be seen addressing the gathering at Berlin on India's Smart City Mission. For the information of our readers, Bhubaneswar, Kochi and Coimbatore have already been identified as cities to be developed as Smart Cities with German collaboration

Third Annual Kala Sangam Meet



CG chairing the Kala Sangam Meet

The 3rd Annual Meeting of Kala Sangam was held at CGI Frankfurt on 1st June 2016. Since its formation two years ago, Kala Sangam has made progress in achieving its goal of providing suitable platforms to Indian artists based in Germany. The number of artists/groups who have registered with us is around 40. Kala Sangam artists/groups have performed at various occasions, including National Day receptions and other events organised by the Embassy and the Consulates, cultural performances organised by Indian cultural bodies. The meeting was a well timed one coming right after the much appreciated 'Indradhanush' initiative of the Consulate.

Hindi Language classes at the Consulate



Students with their Hindi teacher

Lets say नमस्ते!

CGI Frankfurt organised the first orientation class for candidates wishing to learn Hindi. The multicultural group was introduced to the basic fundamentals of the language by their teacher. The classes come in the background of the recent MoU signed by India and Germany on promotion of modern Indian languages in Germany. **To join for the next semester please send an email to consulpic@cgifrankfurt.de**

Indian craftsmen at Freilichtmuseum Hessenpark

On 22nd May, Freilichtmuseum Hessenpark celebrated its promotional day of the crafts. Hessenpark hosted and showcased the art of two Indian artisans and craftsmen from India. The artists were Mr. Prakashkumar Moharana, Master Craftsman for Talapatrachitras (Palm leaf painting) and Mr. Portarasan Subban, Terracotta Artist, from the museum DakshinaChitra in Chennai. Direktor Mr. Sharath Nambiar, DakshinaChitra museum and Director Mr. Jens Scheller, Freilichtmuseum Hessenpark inaugurated the exhibition. Consul (PPIC) Ms. Soni Dahiya was also present on the occasion.



Consul PPIC at Hessenpark

India-Germany Business News

Infosys to run German bank's IT operations

Global software major, Infosys has bagged a five-year outsourcing deal to manage IT operations of Germany's second largest bank Commerzbank. "We will remodel the investment banking IT architecture, optimise IT processes and evaluate a potential post-trade processing utility of the Frankfurt-based German bank," the company said in a statement. As part of the agreement, both partners will set up a domain-based centre of competence aligned to the bank's business functions in corporates and markets segments. "We are developing the IT on a strategic level, focusing on digitalisation of processes. Collaboration with Infosys is essential to stay ahead of the curve in our markets," said Commerzbank chief information officer Stephan Muller.

Bosch investing Rs.770 crore for capacity expansion in India

Global supplier of technology and service Bosch would invest Rs.770 crore this fiscal (2016-17) to expand its manufacturing capacity near here and at Nashik in Maharashtra, a top official said. "We are investing Rs.770 crore this fiscal to expand capacity in our manufacturing plants at Bidadi near Bengaluru and Nashik for common rail pumps and injectors," Bosch managing director Steffen Berns told reporters. With the largest development centre outside Germany here, Bosch India has nine operations and 15 production plants across the country spanning mobility solutions, industrial technology, consumer goods, and energy & building technology, with about 30,000 employees.

Freshdesk sets up office in Berlin

Freshdesk announced the opening of a new regional office in Berlin, Germany. The company has doubled its customer base in just over a year, from 40,000 to 80,000 customers, with nearly a third of the business coming from Europe. Adding to their existing UK office, the new Berlin office will enable the company to better support and grow their mid-market and enterprise business in Continental Europe. The Berlin office will be led by Arun Mani, Managing Director in continental Europe. Mani joined Freshdesk in early 2016 with the goal of supporting the European market and growing the company's presence in the region. Their initial focus will be on hiring exceptional talent in Berlin, to service customers in Europe and scale the business in the regions.

GIZ India calls for start-ups in Energy Sector to be a part of bootcamp in Germany

GIZ India along with its partners Bosch and Intellectap have joined hands with Social Impact and SAP from Germany to conduct a 10 days bootcamp for impact driven product/ service start-ups in the Energy sector — including social, digital or technology start-ups in Berlin end of July. The bootcamp will run at the Social Impact Lab in Berlin over a period of 10 days, and is open to impact driven product/ service start-ups in the Energy sector — including social, digital or technology innovation, both from India and Germany. During this bootcamp, start-ups will have the opportunity to develop their products or services further, validate business plans, exchange ideas, develop synergies and build globally competitive businesses. Bootcamp is conducted as part of the Strategic Alliance — an initiative implemented by GIZ in cooperation with Bosch and Intellectap under the develop PPP.de framework of the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation & Development (BMZ) — that seeks to connect corporates with incubators and start-ups and especially social enterprises.

Germany has offered India a deal for its next generation submarines

Germany has, for the first time, offered a military deal to India under the government-government umbrella for its new-generation conventional submarines with exceptional underwater endurance. The HDW 214 submarines are being offered as a special case for Indian Navy's requirement of six boats. These will be made in India and would cost around Rs 60,000 crore. For this project, India will be mandating Air Independent Propulsion (AIP). It's a technology that would make the submarine able to remain underwater for several days at a stretch, as against the usual practice of coming up to surface frequently so that oxygen needed to burn the fuel can be replenished.

Make in India: Dr. Wamser + Batra GmbH



Mr. Mike Batra, Managing Director, Dr. Wamser + Batra GmbH

How has been your experience in India so far and what are your future plans in India?

We have been present in India since the year 2004 and since then have advised around 180 German companies - most of them belonging to the "Mittelstand" - in their India projects as well as in implementing their sales, purchasing or production activities on the ground in India. We have been continuously growing over the years and have currently 55 employees, with our Indian offices located in Delhi, Bangalore, Pune and Gurgaon, and are planning to expand our presence further.

What are the three areas where you would like to see improvements to facilitate Ease of Doing Business?

While there has been some progress in the recent years with regard to the ease of doing business, we would like to see further improvements in these three areas: 1) simplifying and clarifying the company formation process for foreign investors as well as banking matters such as account opening, 2) solving the issue of Service Tax being an added cost to German companies, as well as 3) issuing of long-term visas for German business visitors also if their companies have no Indian subsidiary in which they act as a Director.

In your opinion, what are the promising sectors for Investment in India?

Many of our clients belong to the Machinery and Electrical Engineering industries and are supplying their products to various growing sectors in India. Some of these sectors are Automotive and Railways, Renewable Energies, Construction & Housing as well as Medical and Environmental Technologies. We expect further growth in these sectors for the years to come, in which German companies can take part both through export of their products as well as value addition locally in India through their knowledge and technologies.

How do you see the Consulate's role, here at Frankfurt in promoting India as a business destination to the German investors as well as supporting them?

The Consulate, and in particular its initiative of the IBF is providing a very useful platform for an exchange between German companies and Indian companies as well as Government officials. Frequent visits by the Consul General and his staff to India-related events and companies in the Federal States covered by the Consulate, such as to the German Indian Round Table (GIRT) Ruhrgebiet, which we are regularly organising, have given a strong support for companies and entrepreneurs interested in doing business with India.

What is the advice you would like to give to a German who would like to invest in India?

From our experience, problems that occur after the market entry of German companies are often because of: 1) a lack of reliable market intelligence and unrealistic expectations, 2) no strategic and systematic market development on the ground in India, 3) no suitable product for the broader Indian market segment, and 4) a missing transparency regarding their ongoing activities in India. These pitfalls are seen with companies present in India through distributors, Joint-Ventures and also with their own subsidiaries, and could be avoided by more in-depth and timely preparation.



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News Round-up

Student Exchange programme in Nidda

The Rotary Club of Nidda recently hosted a reception for Indian students participating in an exchange programme with Rotary Club of Bombay Mid-Town. Over 15 Indian and German students participate in this exchange programme every year. The Indian students gave a presentation on the Indo-German relations and also performed folk dances during the event. The reception highlighted the warmth and resonance in the intercultural relationships between the Indo-German students participating in the exchange. Consul General Mr. Raveesh Kumar was the Chief Guest at the reception. The reception was attended by around 70 persons from the Nidda-Bad Salzhausen area.

Consular Camp in Essen

A Consular Camp was held on May 22, 2016 at Essen. The Camp was well received by the Indian Community living in and around Essen and 46 people availed of the services provided at the Consular Camp. The Essen Gurudwara Management Committee had organised a brief function during the Consular Camp. The Gurudwara President Shri Amrik Singh praised the active role played by the Indian Government through the Consulate General in immediately reaching out to the community and in co-ordinating with the German authorities to ensure safety and security of the Indian Diaspora when the Gurudwara suffered a bomb attack some weeks back.

Month of June in Pictures!



Indian students at Nidda Rotary Club



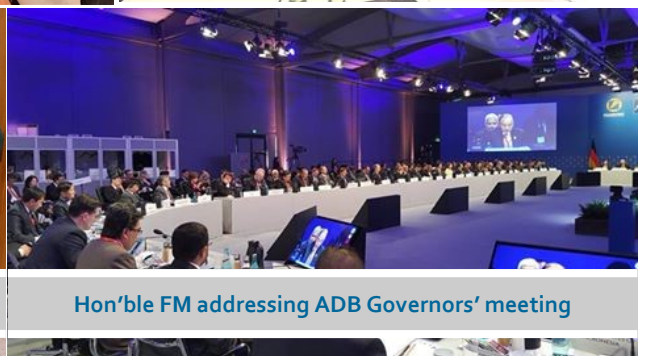
CG at Rotary Club Nidda



Ambassador addressing KAS delegation



CG & Consul PPIC with Kala Sangam members



Hon'ble FM addressing ADB Governors' meeting