

India-Switzerland Bilateral Relations

India and Switzerland have had cordial and friendly relations since India's Independence, based on shared values of democracy and rule of law. India's policy of non-alignment and Switzerland's traditional policy of neutrality led to a close understanding between the two countries.

Diplomatic relations with Switzerland were established with the signing of the Treaty of Friendship at New Delhi on 14 August, 1948; one of the first such treaties to be signed by independent India.

Bilateral ties achieved new heights following the visits of Rashtrapati ji to Switzerland in September 2019, PM Shri Narendra Modi in 2016 & 2018 and that of the Swiss President Mrs. Doris Leuthard to India in 2017.

Apart from its Embassy in New Delhi, Switzerland presently has Consulate Generals in Bengaluru and Mumbai; and Honorary Consuls in Kolkata and Chennai. There is a Swiss Business Hub in Mumbai, and a Swissnex office in Bengaluru. India has an Embassy in Berne and a Consulate General in Geneva.

From 1971 to 1976, during and after Bangladesh's liberation war, Switzerland represented India's interests in Pakistan.

2. VVIP visits

➤ **Swiss Dignitary to India:**

- President Mrs. Doris Leuthard – 30 August-2 September, 2017
- President Mrs. Micheline Calmy Rey – 5-7 November, 2007
- President Mr. Pascal Couchepin – 6-12 November, 2003
- President Mr. Flavio Cotti - 1998 [first ever visit by a Swiss President to India]

➤ **Indian dignitary to Switzerland:**

- President Shri Ram Nath Kovind -11-15 September, 2019
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi - January 2018 (For WEF)
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi - 5-6 June, 2016
- President Mrs. Pratibha Devisingh Patil - 30 September to 4 October 2011
- President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam –May 2005
- Prime Minister H. D. Deve Gowda - January 1997(For WEF)
- President Shri V.V. Giri – 1975

➤ PM Shri Narendra Modi paid an official visit (stopover visit) to Geneva In 2016. **This was a historic visit; the first bilateral visit by an Indian PM to Switzerland since 1997.** PM's engagements included meeting with Swiss

President Mr. Johann N. Schneider-Ammann; a Business Round Table with Switzerland's top companies; and a meeting with Indian research scholars based at CERN.

➤ PM Shri Narendra Modi held a bilateral meeting with Swiss President Mr. Alain Berset on 1 December 2023, on the sidelines of COP-28 in Dubai. The two leaders discussed ways to further deepen their partnership, including cooperation in trade and investment, technology, health, education, IT, tourism and people to people ties.

Other recent high-level visits

Incoming:

- Federal Councillor for Economic Affairs, Education and Research, Mr. Guy Parmelin [10 March 2024 for signing India-EFTA TEPA]
- Visit of Foreign Minister Dr. Ignazio Cassis [5 February 2024];
- First official visit by a five-member Foreign Affairs Committee delegation from Swiss Council of States to Mumbai and New Delhi from 27 November-1 December 2023.
- Federal Councillor for Economic Affairs, Education and Research, Mr. Guy Parmelin [03-04 October 2022], [19-20 January 2024 for TEPA FTA negotiations] and [10 March 2024 for signing of TEPA FTA]
- Federal Councillor for Finance Mr. Ueli Maurer [10 August 2022]

Outgoing:

- The official Indian delegation for World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting in Davos from 20-24 January, 2025 was led by Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw (Minister of Railways, MeitY and Information & Broadcasting) and included Union Ministers of Civil Aviation, Food Processing Industries, Jal Shakti and MoS for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. In addition, Chief Ministers from Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra, and Ministers from Kerala and Tamil Nadu also participated. This was the largest-ever Indian delegation to WEF.
- EAM met Federal Councillor Ignazio Cassis on 25 September 2024 on the sidelines of UNGA in New York.
- Visit of Minister of External Affairs Dr. S. Jaishankar to Geneva [11-14 September, 2024]. He had delegation-level talks with Swiss Federal Councillor of Foreign Affairs Mr. Ignazio Cassis.
- Visit of Minister of Commerce and Industry Sh. Piyush Goyal to Zurich [14-15 July 2024]. He had delegation-level talks with Swiss Federal Councillor of Economic Affairs Mr. Guy Parmelin. This was preceded by a breakfast meeting

with select group of Swiss private sector leaders and officials. This was the first visit of CIM to Switzerland after signing of India-EFTA TEPA.

3. Bilateral Institutional Mechanism

- **Foreign Office Consultations (FOC):** Secretary-level FOC dialogue was established in 1996 with its first round taking place in 2000. The latest round co-chaired by Secretary (West), MEA and Swiss State Secretary for Foreign Affairs was held on 13 February 2025 in New Delhi.
- **Joint Economic Commission:** Set up in 1959 to strengthen economic and commercial ties, its **latest round was held in Geneva on 24 November 2023 with Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry leading the Indian side.**
- **Joint Committee on Science & Technology:** First meeting of the Joint Committee on S&T was held in 2011 in Berne. The latest [6th] Meeting was held in October 2022 in New Delhi. Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DST) from India, and Mr. Guy Parmelin, Federal Councillor, Department of EAER, jointly inaugurated the meeting.
- **Consular Dialogue:** First round of the composite dialogue on Consular and Legal matters was held in New Delhi in 2012. **The last round took place in Berne in September 2023,** co-chaired by Additional Secretary (OIA-I), MEA and Director International Affairs, State Secretariat for Migration(SEM), Federal Department of Justice & Police(FDJP).
- **Financial Dialogue:** First round was held in Berne on 6 July 2012. The latest round of Financial Dialogue was convened in March 2024, co-chaired by Secretary, DEA and Swiss State Secretary for International Finance.
- **Joint Working Group on Rail Corporation:** First JWG Meeting under the MoU was held in 2019 at New Delhi. Second meeting was held in Berne in August 2022.
- **Joint Working Group on Climate Change and Environment:** First meeting was held through video conferencing in September 2021.

4. Bilateral MoUs/Agreements

Year of Signing	Description of MoU/Agreement
1948	Treaty of Friendship signed at New Delhi on 14 Aug 1948 [came into force w.e.f. 05 May 1949]
1949	Interim Agreement on airlines between Switzerland and India (final Agreement in 2001)

1960	Agreement concerning the opening of transfer credits (with Implementing Protocol and Exchange of Letters)
1966	Agreement for the duty-free entry of relief supplies and packages
	Agreement on Technical and Scientific Co-operation
1989	Exchange of letters on mutual assistance in criminal matters
1991	Agreement on the granting of a Mixed Financing
1994	Agreement for the avoidance of double taxation w.r.t. taxes on income, signed in 1994, and amended by the supplementary protocols signed in 2000 and 2010.
1997	Agreement for the Promotion and Protection of Investment
1999	Agreement on Collaboration in Biotechnology
2002	Letter of Agreement between the SECO and UNIDO concerning the project - Cleaner Technology Promotion in India
2003	Agreement on cooperation in the field of Science and Technology
	Agreement on Cooperation in the event of Disasters
2005	Grant Agreement between the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs and the International Competence Center for Organic Agriculture in India (ICCOA) on the Project "Indian Organic Market Development Project"
2007	MoU on intellectual property
2009	Agreement on Social Security
2011	MoU on Mutual Cooperation in Local Governance
	MoU for cooperation in Energy Efficiency
	MoU on Financial Dialogue
	MOU establishing the 'Rabindranath Tagore Chair in Indian Studies'. Swiss side had terminated the agreement in April 2023.
2012	MoU signed between the Indian Council of Social Science Research and the University of Lausanne for institutional cooperation and social sciences and humanities projects under the ISJRP
2016	MOU on Cooperation in the fields of Skill Development as well as Vocational and Professional Education and Training (lapsed)
	Arrangement on Authorization for Dependent Person of Diplomatic, Consular, Technical and Administrative Staff of Diplomatic and Consular Mission to perform gainful employment
	Technical arrangement on the Identification and Return of Swiss and Indian Nationals [renewed in 2022]
	Agreement on Mutual Visa Exemption for Holders of Diplomatic Passport
	Joint Declaration on the introduction of the Automatic Exchange of Information on Tax matters
2017	MOU signed between Konkan Railways Corporation Ltd., India and Versuchs Stollen Hagerback AG

	MoU between Konkan Railway Cooperation Ltd. (KRCL) and Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH Zurich) in the field of tunneling and underground structures
	MoU on Technical Cooperation in Railway Safety & Technology
	Agreement pursuant to Article 28 paragraph 6 of the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters
2019	MoU on Technical Cooperation in the field of Climate Change and Environment
	Letter of Intent for further strengthening the India-Switzerland relations for the future in the form of an India-Switzerland Science and Innovation Alliance
2020	Protocol amending the Agreement relating to Air Services
2024	India- EFTA TEPA (Free Trade Agreement)
	Renewed MoU on Technical Cooperation in Railway Sector.

5. Economic & Commercial Relations

- Commercial contacts between India and Switzerland date back to the early 19th century when in 1851 the Volkart Trading Co. established its offices in Basel and Mumbai. During the First World War, Switzerland set up its consulates in key locations around the world, including in Mumbai, to secure food and economic prospects.
- The Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai set up, based on 1949 agreement signed between the GoI and the Swiss Cars and Elevators Manufacturing Ltd. Zurich, expanded its India network, diversifying its activities, and soon becoming the backbone of Switzerland's economic presence in India.

Bilateral trade

- Switzerland has remained an important trading partner of India, though the trade balance has been in its favour. With a total trade of USD 21.03 billion, Switzerland was India's 20th largest trading partner in 2023. While our export figures have remained consistent in the past five years, our imports have fluctuated since a substantial part of it is in gold bullion. Switzerland is amongst world's major gold refining centres.

Bilateral trade figures (Billion USD)

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
India's Exports	1.276	1.268	1.287	1.340	1.381	1.667
India's Imports	17.785	11.342	29.512	16.291	19.667	25.166
Total Trade	19.061	12.610	30.799	17.631	21.038	26.833

[Source: DoC, Ministry of Commerce & Industry]

- Major items of Indian exports to Switzerland include organic chemicals, pearls, precious stones and jewellery, textiles and garments, dyestuffs, electrical machinery and parts, leather products, shoes and shoe uppers, cotton, plastics, coffee, etc.
- Besides bullion, other major items of Swiss exports to India consist of chemicals & pharmaceuticals, machinery, transport equipment's, precision engineering products and watches, etc.

6. Swiss investments in India

- FDIs from Switzerland to India from April 2000-December 2024 were USD 10.748 billion placing it at 12th position globally. Swiss FDI in India increased by 53% during 2015-2023 (recorded at an average annual growth rate of 9%).
- 330 Swiss companies are present in India with a subsidiary, joint venture or liaison or representation office, out of which 294 entered Indian market post liberalization of Indian economy in 1991. These companies have created over 1,66,000 jobs in India. 108 companies have their manufacturing facility in Switzerland. 74 out of 108 use India as export hub for other markets. 30 Swiss companies operate their R&D centre in India.

MISSP: Market outreach initiative of the Indian Mission in Berne

Embassy of India, Berne, has been promoting India as an attractive economic partner and investment destination for Swiss SMEs, which make up 99% of the Swiss companies. The Embassy launched the '*Momentum in India: Swiss SMEs Programme*' (MISSP) in 2017 to facilitate Swiss SMEs explore, enter, and expand in the Indian market. At present, the MISSP Program has a total membership of more than 150 onboarded Swiss SMEs from various sectors ranging from Defence, Pharma, Food & beverages, Machine Tools, Railways, Chemicals, to AI, Space Tech etc. Under this Program the Mission organizes various sector focused events / workshops and webinars in close collaborations with Swiss Associations, Indian EPCs and Invest India.

Some recent investments by Swiss Companies in India in 2023-24

- **Zurich Insurance** entered Indian general insurance market with Kotak Mahindra Bank through the proposed acquisition of a 70% stake in Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company Limited ("Kotak General Insurance") for USD 670 million. This is the largest FDI in non-life insurer in India by any foreign company.
- **Geobrugg** expanded with new production facility in India to provide top-notch solutions for the mitigation of natural hazards, including landslides and rockfalls.
- **Stäubli**, a leading global industrial and mechatronic solution provider, opened a USD 15 million facility in Bengaluru.
- **Akkodis**, a global digital engineering company and tech business of the Adecco Group, announced the expansion of its operations in India with the opening

of a new office in Chennai.

- **Ancor**, a global leader in developing and producing responsible packaging solutions, entered into an agreement to acquire Phoenix Flexibles.
- Other companies namely major Swiss companies namely Swisspod; Feintool; CPH Group; Sika; InSphero AG; Läderach; SIG; and EH Group entered into Indian market through investments, joint ventures; subsidiary, manufacturing plants and M&A also have invested significantly

7. Indian investments in Switzerland

- Overseas Direct Investment from India to Switzerland for April 2000 – November 2024 was **USD 8.84 billion** placing it at 10th position.
- Major Indian IT companies including TCS, Infosys, HCL, Tech Mahindra, etc. have their offices in Switzerland and provide services to major Swiss pharma companies, banks and insurance firms. Indian companies in pharma and life sciences sectors in Switzerland include Dr. Reddy, Wockhardt and Glenmark. Tata and Birla also have their representative offices.
- 140 Indian companies have invested in 180 entities in Switzerland and have created about 5,600 jobs in Switzerland.

8. India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement [TEPA]

- Negotiations on bilateral free trade agreement started in October 2008. After 21st round of negotiations held over 16 years, the agreement was finally signed on 10 March, 2024. With this, Switzerland and the other EFTA States became the first European partners to conclude a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with India.
- A dedicated EFTA Desk has been established to facilitate flow of investments from EFTA countries into India. Swiss State Secretary of Economic affairs, Ms. Helene Budliger Artieda visited India for the inauguration of EFTA Desk in New Delhi on 10-11 February 2025.

9. Bilateral Investment Treaty

- India and Switzerland signed a Bilateral Investment Treaty in 1997, which came into force in 2000 with an initial duration of ten years. Later, Pursuant to the Cabinet approval on the Model Indian BIT in 2015, it was decided to terminate the existing BITs with countries whose initial duration period is over and re-negotiate based on the revised Model BIT.

10. Science & Technology Cooperation

- The Inter-governmental agreement for S&T cooperation was signed in 2003 during the state visit of Swiss President to India. Within the framework of this agreement, the Indo-Swiss Joint Research Program (ISJRP) was initiated with Swiss Government in 2005 in-order to further advance the bilateral S&T co-operation.

- The program has supported cutting edge research that brings together faculty and young researchers from Switzerland and India. The ISJRP call for Joint Research Projects (JRPs) is financed by Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) in Switzerland and the Department of Science & Technology and Department of Biotechnology (DBT) in India on the principles of reciprocity, parity and activity matching funding.
- A Joint Committee, co-chaired by Secretaries from both sides has been established as per bilateral agreement. The Joint Committee is responsible for review of all the bilateral activities under the Indo-Swiss S&T Cooperation programme. The last meeting was held in New Delhi in October 2022.
- Some Indo-Swiss Joint Projects in the field of S&T include:
 - Green Electric Mobility (GEM) in India Project
 - Clean Energy Policy (CEP)
 - Remote sensing-based Information and Insurance for Crops in Emerging economies (RIICE)
 - Indo-Swiss Collaboration in Biotechnology (ISCB)
 - Indo-Swiss Programme on Building Energy Efficiency (BEEP)
 - Construction assistance in India: Improving energy efficiency in building

India-Swiss Innovation Platform

- A new collaborative mechanism with Switzerland in the fields of Innovation and R&D- “India-Swiss Innovation Platform” was launched in Bengaluru on 30 October 2023. It is a joint collaborative effort between Swissnex India (as the lead coordinator), Swiss Business Hub India, Indian Mission in Berne and Swiss Embassy in New Delhi. Relevant Indian institutions, including Departments of Science & Technology (DST) and Bio-technology, etc., are envisaged as partners to jointly collaborate on platform’s future activities.
- The platform would provide an institutional mechanism for our scientific, business, education and government agencies to exchange ideas to jointly work to find innovative solutions to the challenges faced by humanity. The identified focus areas include health, sustainability and digital transformation spaces. Through regular dialogue in a planner manner, concrete proposals submitted to Indo-Swiss Joint Research Programmes - a bilateral funding instrument - would be implemented under this institutional framework.
- The platform launch coincided with the first Indo-Swiss Anti-microbial Resistance (AMR) dialogue, in which about 50 experts from the two countries participated to discuss innovative approaches to address the serious but silent public health threat posed by AMR to the humanity.

11. Cooperation in Railways

- An MoU was signed between our Railways Ministry and with its Swiss counterpart for technical cooperation in Rail sector on 31 August 2017 with cooperation in areas including Traction Rolling stock, EMU and Train sets, Traction Propulsion Equipments, Tilting Trains, Railway Electrification Equipment, Train scheduling and operation improvement and Tunneling technology, etc.
- The first JWG Meeting under the MoU was held in 2019 at New Delhi. The meeting was launched by Chairman Railway Board from Indian side and Federal Councillor and Head of the Swiss Federal Department of Environment, Transport, Energy & Communications from the Swiss Side. The 2nd meeting of JWG on technical cooperation in rail sector was held at Berne on 30 August 2022.
- A renewed MoU was signed by Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology and his Swiss counterpart Mr. Albert Rosti, Federal Councilor and Head of the Federal DETEC, on 29 October 2024 at a virtual ceremony.
- Swiss rail companies/entities involved in operations in India are Stadler Rail Management AG, Furrer & Frey, Huber+Suhner, ABB Ltd, SWISSRAIL, SWISSMEM.

12. Air Connectivity & Tourism

- An Air Services Agreement (ASA) was signed in May 2001. The two sides presently have open sky policy. **Swiss Airlines commenced direct flight to Delhi from December 2007.** The passenger composition on these flights is approximately 60% Indians and 40% Swiss.
- After a gap of 27 years, Air India started operating direct flights (with frequency of four flights per week) from Zurich to Delhi beginning 16 June 2024.

Indian Tourists in Switzerland:

- Switzerland is the prime destination for Indian tourists and around 1,50,000 Indians visited Switzerland in the year 2022. In 2023, Indian tourists recorded over 6,00,000 overnights stays in Switzerland which is expected to rise by 50% in the next 5 years. India is the 10th highest source market for Switzerland in terms of tourist arrivals.

13. Ayurveda & Health Cooperation

- Complementary Medicine is a part of the Swiss Federal Constitution. Ayurveda along with three other traditional systems of medicine i.e. Chinese, European and homeopathy, has been approved for federally recognized national diploma examination in Switzerland.
- Swiss Government regulates the Ayurveda profession. Since 2015, Ayurveda is recognized into two professions for which Federal Diplomas are issued:
 - a) Ayurveda Medicine [4000 learning hours]- The competences of Ayurveda Medicine include Medical diagnosis, Nutritional advices, dietetics, Prescription

and preparation of medicines, All medical manual treatment techniques and Invasive treatments (Pancha Karma).

b) Ayurveda Therapy [2200 learning hours]- The competences of Ayurveda Therapy include Therapeutic assessment, Nutritional advices, dietetics and Therapeutic massage therapies.

➤ The Therapist can assist the Naturopath practitioner in manual and invasive treatment techniques under their supervision and associated in the same clinic. For an Indian BAMS degree holder Ayurvedic doctor to prescribe as an Ayurveda practitioner in Switzerland, he must pass a Federal diploma exam of either of the two recognised professions of Ayurveda, as described above.

➤ **International Ayurveda Symposium (12-13 October 2024, Luzern):** The first-ever Symposium held in Switzerland was supported by our Ministry of Ayush, and attended by Secretary, Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha and Director, AIIA, Prof. Dr Tanuja Nesari. 200-strong participants included eminent Ayurveda practitioners, researchers, proponents and enthusiasts from across the globe.

14. Cultural relations & people to people contacts

➤ Switzerland has always been a meeting point for East and West and the connection between Himalayas and Alps are stronger and deeper. Swami Vivekananda visited Switzerland in 1896. Switzerland also hosted another great sage of India, Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, who is the founder of Transcendental Meditation. This land also welcomed Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore in 1926 and Mahatma Gandhi in 1931.

➤ A 'Festival of India' in 12 cities of Switzerland and Liechtenstein was organized in 2018 under the theme 'Connecting Himalayas with Alps' which was well received.

➤ The celebrations of 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi provided great opportunities to promote Gandhian values.

➤ 'India in the Alps' - an Indian cultural festival showcasing music, dance, exhibition, cuisine, crafts, Bollywood & yoga in Switzerland was organized in 2022 at Berne, Zurich & Geneva as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations. The events were well received by diaspora as well as Swiss populace.

➤ To celebrate the 75th anniversary of India's independence and also of India-Switzerland diplomatic relations, photo exhibitions of great Indian personalities like Mahatma Gandhi, Rabindranath Tagore, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Swami Vivekananda were organized in various cantons across Switzerland during 2022-2023.

➤ Swiss Games Museum in Montreux has a unique collection of games which originated in India. While the Lugano museum has some of the rare collections of

photographs of Mahatma Gandhi, the Swiss National Museum in Prangins has an exhibition of unique collection of cotton fabric from India. The Charlie Chaplin Museum at Vevey also has an India connect.

➤ Museum Rietberg in Zurich has one of the best collections of Indian Miniature paintings. An exhibition dedicated to “Ragamala”, a jewel of Indian miniature paintings where music, poetry and painting fuse together, is being organized by Museum Rietberg from 20 September 2024 to 19 January 2025, presenting around fifty masterpieces.

➤ An exhibition, 'Being Jain: Art & Culture of an Indian Religion' was organized at Museum Rietberg from 18 November 2022 to 30 April 2023 showcasing Jainism in India, featuring 20 objects loaned from various Museums in India.

➤ **Courses on Indian Studies at Swiss universities:** The Universities of Lausanne (UNIL) offer courses on Indian Studies which covers language and literature (Hindi & Sanskrit), culture and history.

➤ The University of Zurich (UZH) offer courses on Indian Studies/ Indology. In addition to the introduction to Indology, the course offerings include a diverse range of modules in the core areas of language acquisition (Hindi, Sanskrit & Pali), culture and society.

➤ **Statues/busts of Indian icons:**

- A Mahatma Gandhi Statue was installed at Ariana Park, Geneva in 2007.
- A bust of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore was unveiled at University of Lausanne in October 2011 by President Smt. Pratibha Devi Singh Patil during her visit to Switzerland.
- A bronze bust of Swami Vivekananda was installed at Saas Fee in August 2013 on the occasion of 150th Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. Saas Fee was visited by Swami Vivekananda in August 1896.
- In a major public event, President Shri Ram Nath Kovind unveiled a bronze bust of Mahatma Gandhi in September, 2019 along the banks of Lake Geneva at a picturesque location in Villeneuve where Mahatma Gandhi visited in 1931 to meet Romain Rolland.

➤ **Yoga:**

- Yoga is very popular in Switzerland. Many private yoga studios/resorts/retreats offer yoga classes/ sessions in almost all cantons of the country. About a quarter of a million Swiss residents are yoga practitioners and women make up the bulk of the yoga-practicing population.
- Embassy of India was the part of “The Guardian Ring” programmes envisaged for International Day of Yoga 2022 celebrations.

- In its efforts to further the reach of Yoga in Switzerland, our Mission in Berne has been organizing Yoga sessions at various cities in Switzerland. The main event of 9th International Day celebrations was held on 21 June 2023 at the iconic Bundesplatz in front of the Swiss Parliament. The 10th IDY 2024 events were organized at 11 different locations in Switzerland.

➤ **Bollywood Connection:** Indian films are regularly shot in Switzerland. The first Indian film to be shot in Switzerland was Sangam in 1964 in the famous alpine region of Grindelwald-Jungfrau. Since then many Indian movies, including Bollywood blockbusters have been shot in the Swiss Alps.

➤ Bollywood filmmaker Yash Chopra who shot many movies in Interlaken region in Switzerland, was honored by the city of Interlaken with a bronze statue in a central location in Interlaken.

➤ Bollywood icon Sharukh Khan was honored with lifetime achievement award at the 77th Locarno Film festival in August 2024.

15. Indian community

➤ The Indian Diaspora comprises about 28,000 Indians, including over 9,100 persons of Indian origin (mostly in Engineering, IT, pharmaceuticals and paramedical, nursing fields). Some are deployed in the International Organizations like UN, UPU and other prestigious Swiss institutes, like Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich and EPFL, Lausanne.

➤ Our Diaspora also includes a Member of Federal Parliament, a member of Cantonal Parliament, Mayor, CEOs and senior executives of several companies, senior Government officials, professors, doctors, engineers and students.

➤ The Indian community is concentrated in Zurich, Geneva, Basel, Baden, Berne and Lausanne. About 2,050 Indian students are studying in Switzerland. A number of Indian associations actively organize cultural activities and celebrate Indian Festivals and national days.

➤ Some prominent members of Indian Diaspora, who received Pravasi Bhartiya Samman Award in Switzerland are:

- **Late Dr. Rajendra Joshi**, Swiss-based NRI scientist was one of the most prominent members of Indian Diaspora who passed in 2019.
- **Dr. Shachi Gurumayum**, an NRI based in Switzerland had been conferred the Award in 2021 for his contribution in the field of Bio-tech Agronomy.
- **Dr. Archana Sharma**, a particle physicist at CERN is among the prominent personalities of diaspora who is conferred the Award 2023 in S&T field.

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