



PRESS RELEASE

India and Switzerland – 60 Years of Friendship

On 14 August 1948 India and Switzerland signed a friendship treaty. Switzerland was the first country to sign a contract of this kind with India and one of the first states to recognise the young, independent India officially. Both countries will celebrate this anniversary next year.

The statue of Mahatma Gandhi — a gift from the Indian government to the city of Geneva — symbolises the long-standing and excellent relations of India and Switzerland.

In Switzerland, the commemoration of this jubilee is being co-ordinated by Presence Switzerland, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. In its meeting of 15 June 2006, Presence Switzerland's commission decided that India shall be a focus country from 2008-2011. Also other organisations have decided to expand their activities with and to put a special emphasis on India.

The 60th jubilee of the Swiss-Indian friendship treaty provides an excellent platform for both countries to further develop their co-operation. It is also a unique opportunity for Switzerland to strengthen its presence and image in India and to position itself with a lasting effect.

Swiss-Indian Treaty of Friendship and Establishment 1948 - 2008

The Swiss-Indian treaty of friendship and establishment was signed on 14 August 1948. The Swiss Federal Council dispatched its special envoy Mr. Armin Daeniker to the Indian capital New Delhi to sign the treaty with India's Prime Minister, Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru. Switzerland was the first country to sign a treaty of friendship and establishment with India and one of the first states to recognise the young, independent India officially.

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