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7-HOUR MEET; RAHUL QUESTIONS TIMING, ANTONY CALLS IT 'CRUEL' Rallying behind Sonia and Rahul, CWC slams both letter and its spirit

Resolution says Sonia to stay chief until AICC meets; takes note of letter by 'certain leaders'

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 24

AFTER the seven-hour-long stormy meeting of its Working Committee on Monday, the Congress acknowledged the letter sent to president Sonia Gandhi by 23 senior leaders calling for sweeping changes in the party but neither discussed its contents nor gave any specific commitments on the way forward.

Instead, most of those present at the meeting slammed the 23, questioned and criticised the intent and the timing of their letter even as they pledged loyalty to the Sonia-Rahul family and



At the CWC virtual meeting in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

Under fire, dissenters stand firm, later dial down to wait and watch

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 24

STANDING FIRM in the face of sharp attacks at the Congress Working Committee meeting Monday, Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma, Mukul Wasnik and Jitin Prasad — the four CWC members who were among the 23 leaders to sign the unprecedented letter written to party president Sonia Gandhi — argued forcefully that the issues raised by them need discussion and redressal, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

Soon after the meeting, at least nine of the signatories, including Sharma, Kapil Sibal, Manish Tewari and Shashi Tharoor, met at Azad's residence.



Tharoor arrives at Azad's residence after CWC. ANI

Sharma told *The Indian Express* that "the co-signatories were keen to know about the deliberations" and that "everybody is satisfied". "It was a free and frank discussion (in the CWC). The document (letter) was not available for all CWC members. There were a lot of misreadings and

misinterpretations, which led to some uncharitable comments made against us. I demanded that it should be made available to everyone and released to the public so that people know what the issues are," Sharma said.

Referring to the CWC e-meeting, he said: "Azad, Wasnik and I put forth our views. The Congress president's concluding statement was most gracious, giving a clear message of reconciliation, saying let whatever has happened be behind us and let's be united and move forward. She said even if I was hurt by a leak of some excerpts, these are my valued colleagues. We respect her and this has brought it to a very amicable closure." Another signatory said: "We need to wait and watch how this pans out."

EXPLAINED
All give, some take

FOR THE 23 leaders, the key takeaway from the CWC is the acknowledgement of their letter and Sonia's statement of no ill-will. But the CWC and party rallied behind the Gandhis, ensured that deadline for a change or a mechanism to address issues not put on record.

At the CWC meeting earlier, the signatories made it clear that they were not against Sonia or

Military option on table if LAC talks fail: Gen Rawat

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 24

WITH DIPLOMATIC and military talks on resolving the military standoff between Indian and Chinese troops along the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh not making much headway, Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat Monday said India has "military options" available, but these will be used only if talks fail.

This is the first time that a senior military officer has spoken publicly on the "transgressions by the Chinese" and the option of military force to deal with the border crisis in Ladakh.

General Rawat told the ANI news agency that "the military options to deal with transgressions by the Chinese army in Ladakh are on, but it will be exercised only if the talks at the military and diplomatic levels fail".

His statement comes even as the government prepares for an-



Chief of Defence Staff

other round of military talks with China to try and break the stalemate over disengagement of troops in Pangong Tso and the Gogra Post area.

Last Saturday, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held a meeting with NSA Ajit Doval, General Rawat and the three services chiefs.

India has been demanding status quo ante — of troops on both sides returning to locations before the standoff. Failing to achieve a breakthrough, India has begun preparing for extended deployment on the LAC.

EC: Said no to police over poll rolls data in riots probe

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 24

IN AN unusual request, the Delhi Police sought the digital electoral database of three districts in connection with its investigation into the Northeast Delhi riots earlier this year, but did not pursue the matter after the Election Commission (EC) denied access and offered physical inspection of voters' list instead, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

According to a letter released by activist Saket Gokhale on Monday, the Delhi Police sought the database in March to match the photographs of voters in Shahdara, North-East and East Delhi districts with the "photographs of culprits captured through CCTV and other video footage" available with the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

An apology will be contempt of my conscience: Bhushan to SC

ANANTHAKRISHNAN
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 24

ADVOCATE PRASHANT Bhushan, who has been convicted by the Supreme Court in a criminal contempt of court case over two tweets posted in June, and told to tender an unconditional apology by Monday, has declined to do so.

He said the tweets "represented" a "bonafide belief that I continue to hold" and "an apol-



The case comes up before SC today

ogy for expression of these beliefs, conditional or unconditional, would be insincere" and "contempt of my conscience".

In a supplementary statement Monday before the

Supreme Court, filed on his behalf by advocate Kamini Jaiswal, Bhushan said "in these troubling times, the hopes of the people of India vest in this Court to ensure the rule of law and the Constitution" and "not an untrammelled rule of the executive".

The matter has been listed Tuesday "for effect of supplementary statement".

Bhushan was held guilty on

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNAY



Unlock 4.0: Delhi Metro may start, schools to stay shut

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 24

THE METRO service in Delhi NCR, suspended since March 22 in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak, is likely to resume in September in a limited manner.

An official of the Ministry of Home Affairs said Monday that a plan to operate the service at 50 per cent capacity, with strict enforcement of social distancing and hygiene norms, is being considered.

The announcement on the resumption of the Metro service in the NCR, the official said, may form part of Unlock-4 guidelines expected in the coming days.

State governments, the official said, are still not in favour of reopening schools and colleges, so the restrictions on educational institutions are likely to continue.

"The government is also not yet in favour of re-opening multiplexes because of the closed environment, and swimming pools," the official said.

Entertainment parks, theatres, bars, auditoriums, assembly halls and similar places are also not likely to reopen in the next phase of Unlock. The ban on

KARNATAKA LIFTS ALL TRAVEL CURBS
PAGE 9



1 KILLED, 70 MISSING

A five-storey building, housing 45 families, collapsed in Mahad in Raigad district of Maharashtra on Monday evening. Rescue efforts were on till late night. PTI REPORT, PAGE 13

Puri: Expect bulk of air traffic back by Diwali

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 24

MUCH OF the pre-Covid domestic air passenger traffic could be restored by Diwali, Minister of State for Civil Aviation (Independent Charge) Hardeep Singh Puri said on Monday.

The Centre will allow more flights from locations such as Mumbai and Kolkata, which have had restricted operations so far, Puri said.

"The figure (of domestic passengers) yesterday was 98,800, so we have already reached 33% of pre-Covid numbers. We are increasing domestic passengers at the rate of



Minister of Aviation, Housing and Urban Affairs at the Idea Exchange

5,000 a week. With Mumbai hopefully having Covid numbers under control, the graph stable and coming down, I'm hoping that after the Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations, we will open up Mumbai more; Bengaluru, Kolkata will be a little less sporadic. We will be looking to touch the 50% mark before too long," Puri said at an online Idea

HK experts find case of re-infection, in 4 months

APOORVA MANDAVILLI
NEW YORK, AUGUST 24

RESEARCHERS in Hong Kong have reported the first confirmed case of reinfection with the novel coronavirus.

"An apparently young and healthy patient had a second case of Covid-19 infection which was diagnosed 4.5 months after the first episode," University of Hong Kong researchers said in a statement on Monday.

The report is of concern because it suggests that immunity



CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Migrants back, women's share in NREGS dips to 8-year low

PAGE 1
ANCHOR

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 24

AMID THE Covid outbreak, the share of women in total person-days of work generated under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) has dipped to an eight-year low of

52.46 per cent during the first five months of this financial year, according to official data.

An analysis of data available on the NREGS portal till August 24 shows that the share of women is the lowest since 2013-14 (52.82 per cent), from when the numbers are currently available.

The data show a steady rise from 2013-14 to a high of 56.16 per cent in 2016 (see chart) — the latest number is a dip of 2.24

percentage points from last year. There are about 13.34 crore active NREGS workers of which 6.58 crore, or 49 per cent, are women.

No official reason has been provided for the dip this year although sources pointed to the increased participation of men following the largescale return of migrant workers to their villages in the wake of economic distress caused by the pandemic.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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M E S S A G E
H.E. Monika Kapil Mohta
Ambassador of India to Switzerland



Dear Friends,

Relations between India and Switzerland are referred to as a long standing dynamic partnership. Recent years have witnessed engagements at the highest level. The Hon'ble President of India undertook a State Visit to Switzerland last September. Agreements were signed in the priority fields of Climate Change, Science & Innovation, and Culture. India is committed to further strengthen and deepen the warm and friendly ties with Switzerland.

Switzerland is the 11th largest trading partner of India and the 12th largest investor into India. The Embassy of India, Berne is running the Momentum In India: Swiss SMEs Programme for further strengthening India-Switzerland commercial relations.

A Culture of Innovation and Entrepreneurship is common to India and Switzerland. Joint research projects are being undertaken under the India-Switzerland Agreement for Scientific & Technological Cooperation. Many Indian students are pursuing higher education in prominent Swiss Universities.

Swiss nationals regularly visit India, including for Ayurveda procedures. Switzerland regulates the profession of Ayurveda. The celebrations of Ayurveda Day as well as International Day of Yoga by the Embassy across Switzerland receive enthusiastic response.

The beauty and serenity of Switzerland has drawn prominent Indian personalities, including Mahatma Gandhi (1931), Swami Vivekananda (1896), and Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. A bust of Mahatma Gandhi was inaugurated at a beautiful location in Villeneuve in September 2019.

Switzerland is home to a vibrant and professional Indian diaspora which is highly respected. A number of Indian companies are present in Switzerland. Bollywood knows Switzerland very well and is the gateway to the picturesque Bernese Oberland.

Let me end with underlining the one word which comprehensively describes India-Switzerland relations – Harmony. We understand each other, appreciate each other's priorities and are able to bring our strengths together. My best wishes to the readers on the occasion of the 72nd anniversary of the signing of the India-Switzerland Treaty of Friendship.

Celebrating 72 Years of Indo-Swiss Partnership!

Reflecting the shared value of pluralism and a commitment to the democratic ways of life, the Indo-Swiss friendship is based on mutual respect and deep admiration for each other's culture and diversity

ONE OFTEN wonders what binds India and Switzerland in such a close-knit bond? What makes India one of Switzerland's main partners in Asia? Why is Switzerland a household name in India? How come Yoga and Ayurveda are household names in Switzerland? Why do more than half a million Indian tourists visit Alps every year?

Well, to find answers to these questions, one needs to flip through the pages of history to find that both India and Switzerland instantly became each other's priority post Indian Independence, realising that both shared vibrant democratic traditions, values of pluralism and common interests. Switzerland's swift recognition of India's independence in 1947 paved the way for a strong bilateral relationship. Then, in August 1948, came the day when India and Switzerland signed the historic "Treaty of Friendship", proposed by then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, to lay the foundation for strong bilateral ties and economic prosperity.

In the past seven decades, India and Switzerland have regularly engaged in high-powered state visits to consistently engage in all spheres of bilateral cooperation, including political, trade and commerce, science and technology, education and research, cultural exchanges as well as people-to-people connect. This long-standing, dynamic partnership has gained a significant momentum in the past 4-5 years, subsequent to the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Geneva in June 2016. This high-level visit was followed by the State Visit of the Swiss President Doris Leuthard to India in August-September 2017.

In September 2019, President Ram Nath Kovind paid a State Visit to Switzerland accompanied by a high-level official and business delegation. President Kovind and Swiss President Ueli Maurer also made remarks at the India-Switzerland Business Round Table co-hosted by India and Switzerland on September 13, 2019, in Berne.



President Ram Nath Kovind unveiling a bust of Mahatma Gandhi at Villeneuve, Switzerland on 14th September, 2019

BILATERAL TIES HAVE GAINED MOMENTUM SUBSEQUENT TO VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI TO GENEVA IN JUNE 2016

Besides these state visits, bilateral institutional arrangements such as The Indo-Swiss Joint Economic Commission (1959), Foreign Office Consultations (FOCs) (January 1996), The Indo-Swiss Joint Committee on S&T (2011), and other dialogue mechanisms like India-Switzerland Financial Dialogue have also facilitated cooperation between the two nations.

The Treaty of Friendship set the tone for future economic engagements, as Article 3 to 6 of this Treaty secured the "most favoured foreign nation treatment" to Switzerland. This treaty became the foundation stone for

many more treaties to strengthen and boost economic ties, including Double Taxation Treaty in November, 1994; Amendment protocol in 2010; and Promotion and Protection of Investment Treaty in July 1997.

As per EXIM Bank, India figures, "Switzerland was the 11th largest trading partner for India with the total bilateral trade including bullion, amounting to \$19263.38 million in 2018-19. The imbalance mainly arises out of export of bullion and precious metals to India." As per the Swiss Federal Department of Finance figures, in 2018, "India was Switzerland's 8th largest trading partner with the total bilateral trade including bullion, amounting to \$19696 million."

In terms of industry-wise distribution of Swiss investments in India, traditional sectors of Swiss excellence, e.g., engineering and industrial equipment, services (tourism, financial, logistics, etc.), precision instruments, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, continue to maintain top positions. Most of the Swiss multinational companies like Nestle, ABB, Novartis, Roche UBS and Credit Suisse etc. have

their operations in India.

Recent reform initiatives by India have created enhanced potential for Swiss businesses. Sectors such as clean technology, life sciences, precision engineering, medtech, financial services and fintech, construction materials and equipment, consumer goods, railways and defence offer plenty of opportunities for Swiss companies.

As per reports, "Overseas Direct Investment from India to Switzerland for the duration from April 2017 to November 2019 was \$1495.6 million (4.09% of total Overseas Direct Investment) placing it at 4th position." Switzerland continues to attract investment from Indian companies looking for a gateway to Europe, thanks to its geo-strategic location in the centre of Europe, political and economic stability, modern infrastructure, strong industry and technology clusters and a moderate tax structure.

As for cultural connect between India and Switzerland, "there have been regular Indo-Swiss cultural exchanges in domains as diverse as art, architecture, food, entertainment, literature, and music, among others, and they have particularly seen a boom in the globalisation era." Established in 2007 in New Delhi, The Swiss Arts Council promotes cultural exchanges between the two nations. As per reports, "India too, has left its mark on Swiss culture through Bollywood, Indian cuisine, and more recently Yoga and Ayurveda. It will be difficult to find a village in Switzerland without Yoga practitioners."

On the Tourism front, Switzerland remains a most sought-after destination for Indians to relive those reel-life Bollywood moments. To boost Tourism, Switzerland appointed Ranveer Singh as its brand ambassador in 2017. Overall, it can be said that India-Switzerland bond has evolved with time and now focuses on shared immediate and long-term interests. With changing times and current disruptions owing to COVID-19, it is expected that the two countries will collaborate even more closely to keep evolving and benefiting each other, today and tomorrow.

Switzerland has Innovative Solutions to offer in the Renewable Energy Sector

With energy efficiency and climate control as the main pillars of collaboration, Switzerland is looking to tap into India's Renewable Energy sector to provide clean energy solutions and help make the country energy efficient in the future



ALLUDING TO the problem of climate change, the former President of Switzerland, Doris Leuthard, during her address at the India Habitat Centre on September 1, 2017, said, "By the end of this century, we would need 2.8 planets to survive if we are not able to change people's mindset, industrial processes and our behaviour." Such is the concern of the world today regarding the necessity of climate control and renewable energy resources.

Being a hyperconnected country, India serves a population of more than 1.3 billion people. Switzerland realises India's need for a super-transportation system that is powered by clean renewable energy. The idea is to reduce energy consumption through energy-efficient mobility.

Over the seven decades of mutual understanding and cooperation, India and Switzerland have opened up new avenues for collaboration. Advocating the cause of clean energy for many years now, Switzerland is suitably placed to collaborate with global markets to fulfil their demands for

SHARING THE SAME PRIORITIES, INDIA AND SWITZERLAND ARE WORKING TOWARDS IMPROVING ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND EXPANDING UTILITY OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

energy efficiency using clean energy sources. Being one of the most innovative nations, Switzerland is home to the world's leading research and educational institutions. Owing to the fact that both the nations share the same priorities, India and Switzerland are currently working towards improving energy efficiency and expanding the utility of renewable energy.

The Indian government, in 2015, made a decision to make a transition to lower-emission electricity system by declaring

an ambitious target of 175 GW from renewables by 2022, consisting of 100 GW of solar energy and 60 GW of wind energy, sending out a clear-cut message – wider and cheaper energy access but at minimal cost to the environment. This decision has paved the way "for creation of synergies between the two countries to collaborate for knowledge exchange and explore innovative technical solutions to fast-track the growing renewable energy segment."

As part of its Energy Strategy 2050, "Switzerland has decided to take steps to improve energy efficiency and boost the share of renewable energies in the energy mix. Currently, Switzerland is helping municipal authorities in India to reduce greenhouse gas emissions." The Swiss Energy Strategy 2050 shares India's ambition to increase energy efficiency and encourage the development of renewable sources such as wind, hydropower and solar energy. Growth demands power, and access to clean, reliable energy lies at the heart of India's economic development.

Watch industry hit, but likely to bounce back

SWITZERLAND'S watchmaking industry is the country's third largest export industry behind the pharmaceuticals and machine tools sectors. It accounts for around 1.5% of Swiss gross domestic product and is a major generator of jobs in these regions. The coronavirus pandemic has crippled the Swiss watchmaking industry which is expected to suffer the worst crisis of its history in 2020. However, experts are confident of the ability of the industry to recover, as in the past.

Due to a lockdown, there was a ghastly silence over Switzerland's watchmaking industries. The closure of production units, stores and the inability to travel have put the brakes on sales of "Swiss Made" watches in markets around the world and in turn Swiss Watch exports dropped 21.9% overall by value compared with the previous year. But pundits are betting on the industry making a strong comeback in 2021, with exports expected to rebound by around 15%.

The industry's two major shows: Watches & Wonders and Baselworld, where traditionally all the global watchmakers unite as a community to discover and experience new trends and innovations, both got cancelled. The pandemic has forced a few brands to postpone all 2020 watch launches until 2021 or put all product news on hold indefinitely. However, most brands have continued introducing watches through Instagram posts and emailed news releases. Similarly, a number of companies have opted for



CLOSURE OF UNITS DUE TO PANDEMIC SAW SWISS WATCH EXPORTS DROP 21.9% OVERALL BY VALUE COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS YEAR

YouTube or Zoom equivalents of a news conference.

Swiss watch brands were slow to move online, but this lockdown has turned many into purveyors of digital distraction. Most of the brands saw this as an alternate opportunity and took to online selling either di-

rectly or by allowing their authorised retail partners to sell via e-commerce channels. However, many analysts are predicting a rocky road for brick-and-mortar retailers, as consumers who get accustomed to shopping online may fear returning to busy stores.

Like other industries, many Swiss watchmakers have responded to the pandemic with gestures of support for health care workers and communities in need through donations or mounting of operations to bring together P.P.E. or support medical research.

The Swiss watch industry has repeatedly proven its resilience and its ability to bounce back and its principal strength resides in its capacity to export its products to the entire world.

Mt Titlis beckons Indians like no other spot



AT 10,000 feet above sea level, this glacier mountain excursion in central Switzerland welcomes more Indians than any other mountain.

Ascend with the 8-seater Titlis Xpress before you change into the world's first revolving cable car, the Rotair.

You will be mesmerised by the high-lights of this fun-filled excursion including

a ride on the enthralling Ice-Flyer to the amazing Glacier Park where you can glide down snowy slopes with various sliding equipment. Don't miss the chance to walk on the spine-tingling Titlis Cliff Walk, Europe's highest suspension bridge. Finish the glacier experience with a walk in the surreal Glacier cave, a tunnel 20 metres below the surface.

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As regional hub, Switzerland offers great opportunities to Indian firms



THE Treaty of Friendship between India and Switzerland has boosted ties between the two countries over the past 72 years, being based on respect for each other's strengths and the willingness to learn from each other. Congratulations to every person, business entity and Government institution that has contributed to this relationship growing over the years. My wishes for this bond growing stronger and more meaningful in the years to come.

DR SHRAWAN SUBRAMANYAM,
MD, Roche Diagnostics India &
President, Swiss Indo Chamber
of Commerce (India)

INDIA Inc.'s effort to look outward with an increasing aspiration to integrate itself in the global value chain and expand its geographical reach is evident from the sustained high levels in Indian outbound investments over the last few years. Traditionally, Indian companies expand with an intent to explore new markets, and access better technologies, which would enable them to increase their customer base and achieve a global reach. According to the data provided by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), India's outward Foreign Direct Investment (OFDI) in equity, loan and guaranteed issue stood at US\$ 14.89 billion in 2019-20.

Switzerland is often viewed as a preferred regional hub by global MNCs for the larger European market. The country's commitment to quality, security, innovation and overall business competitiveness has enabled it to maintain this position.

In the context of a continuously changing business environment, a key element for Switzerland's success has been its dogged emphasis on ensuring an economic infrastructure that encourages R&D and innovation, coupled with a sound and effective intellectual property protection regime and an attractive taxation regime. Several Indian life science companies have chosen to carry out critical R&D in the country for this reason. The country has also focused its attention on



developing a framework that allows academic institutions and the private sector to benefit from each other's strengths to develop innovative products that can be brought to the market quickly. Following this approach, a large Indian conglomerate has successfully invested in a cleantech spin-off from one of Switzerland's Federal Institute of Technology, (ETHZ).

Several innovation stories that won global recognition have their genesis in Switzerland — Solar Impulse: the aircraft that flew around the world only on solar power; Planet Solar: the world's largest solar-powered boat and the first ever solar electric vehicle to circumnavigate the globe; driverless buses — last mile public

SEVERAL INNOVATION STORIES THAT WON RECOGNITION THE WORLD OVER HAVE HAD THEIR GENESIS IN SWITZERLAND

transport buses developed by a start-up, hit the roads on an experimental basis in 2016. These stories attest to the country's ability to provide a framework enabling companies to benefit from investments in R&D and are the reason several foreign

companies carry out R&D in Switzerland.

A deeply embedded aspect of the Swiss business environment is the inclination of its SMEs, which form more than 98% of the Swiss corporate segment, to focus on developing niche, sophisticated and high value-add products. A Swiss SME that develops high precision drive systems and views R&D as the cornerstone of its success now and in the future has successfully powered Martian Rover missions on the Red Planet. Many Swiss SMEs hold similar distinction of being market leaders in such niche business segments.

In an increasingly globalised and digitised world, Switzerland is aiming to further strengthen its position as a global leader in innovation. Switzerland's vibrant deep-tech ecosystem enables businesses to innovate and successfully transform creative ideas into marketable products. There is an increased focus on emerging technologies including advanced manufacturing, blockchain, AI, robotics & drones and personalised medicine. Indian tech companies can leverage this strong Swiss innovation ecosystem comprising of dedicated innovation clusters, supported by close collaborations with the private sector and globally recognised Swiss technical universities. This positions Switzerland as an ideal pilot playground for cutting edge R&D innovation and complements the aspirations of Indian entrepreneurs to accelerate

growth within the European market.

As a testament to its strong business framework conditions, even during the current pandemic, Switzerland's venture capital ecosystem has shown great resilience. As per the Swiss Venture Capital Report 2020, despite the coronavirus crisis, lockdown and travel restrictions, there was robust activity throughout the first half of 2020 — reflected in the 20% increase in venture capital investments during the period. Life Sciences, ICT, medical devices and cleantech were the key sectors driving investments.

Switzerland's structure of sector clusters with robust ecosystems has attracted many Indian companies to establish their European regional hub in Switzerland.

Personalised Medicine (pharma, biotech, nutraceutical) companies have looked at Switzerland to capitalise on the R&D environment, add technical capabilities, safeguard IP security and leverage funding.

Artificial Intelligence companies and in recent times companies operating in cybersecurity, workplace automation, etc have established themselves to enhance business development in the European market, enter into new business verticals, reduce dependence on the US market as well as to benefit from the availability of local talent.

Blockchain and Fintech companies prefer Switzerland due to its advanced regulatory framework for digital financial assets in the world.

Advanced Manufacturing companies prefer the precision manufacturing cluster and integration with the world supply chain (~40 FTAs with leading trade partners including EU, Japan, and China).

Robotics and Drones due to the network of universities of applied sciences and robotics departments at top universities.

Being one of the most globalised countries in the world, Switzerland lays great significance on continuously and proactively evolving its economic and political systems to remain a competitive contender for Indian companies.

Bilateral Trade & Investment At A Glance

India's Exports	\$2021 million (January-November 2019)
India's Imports	\$16981 million (January-November 2019)
Main Items of India's Exports	Textiles and garments, organic chemicals, precious stones and jewellery, dyestuffs, machinery and parts, leather products, shoes and shoe uppers, cotton, plastics, coffee, tea and hand-knotted carpets.
Main Items of India's Imports	Besides bullion, Swiss exports to India consist of machinery and equipment (electrical and mechanical).
Swiss Investments in India	From April 2000 to September 2019, Switzerland invested (FDI Equity) approximately \$4.781 billion in India with major concentration in the high-tech and engineering sectors, and the rest being in pharma, services and processed food, thus becoming the 12th largest investor and accounting for about 1.07% of total FDI in India during this period.
Indian Investments in Switzerland	Overseas Direct Investment from India to Switzerland for the duration from April 2017-November 2019 was \$ 1495.6 million (4.09% of total Overseas Direct Investment) placing it at 4th position. Indian investments have gone into ICT, Life Services, Engineering, Start-ups, Pharmaceuticals and chemicals.

Easy to say why Switzerland is on Every Traveller's Bucket List

THE dream to visit Switzerland has inspired the traveller within us for years! With its snow-capped peaks, glistening lakes, charming medieval towns, adrenaline pumping adventure, world class resorts, fascinating museums, and delicious cuisine, Switzerland has a lot on offer! Here are the best places to visit in Switzerland to experience it in every way possible.



Matterhorn, Zermatt



Lucerne



Chateau de Chillon



Interlaken



Zurich

LAKE GENEVA REGION

The Lake Geneva Region effortlessly blends history, culture, cuisine, wine and music into one big melting pot of rich experiences. From its breathtaking panoramas of the Alps, to its award-winning local wine and creative culinary offerings, nothing surpasses the magnificence of this region. Whether it is Montreux — the home of the renowned international jazz festival; Lausanne — with its sumptuous Michelin starred restaurants or Lavaux — one of the largest contiguous vineyard regions, one will never run out of options here.

ZERMATT

Home to the Matterhorn peak — the most photographed mountain of all time — Zermatt is a place of incomparable beauty! It is surrounded by tall snow-covered Alpine peaks which are easily accessible via a funicular or a cable car. Zermatt is a charming village known for its quaint, rustic wooden architecture but is also home to the best restaurants, bars and nightlife.

ZURICH

The largest Swiss city, Zurich, is a city of contrasts. It is also the social and cultural hub of the country with more than 50 museums and over 100 art galleries. The city is fresh and beautiful with sparkling rivers, lakes and parks, along with a lively art scene, music theatre, good food, and decidedly hip nightlife.

Investing in the Pharma Industry is the Next Big Thing!

The industry presents a promising growth avenue for India and Switzerland, as both are blessed with pharma hotspots and contribute significantly to the global industry and demand

BOTH INDIA and Switzerland realise the importance of investing in the Pharmaceutical and Life Sciences industry to tap its huge economic prospects for mutual benefit. As per an online report, "India is the largest provider of generic drugs globally. The industry supplies over 50% of global demand for various vaccines, 40% of generic demand in the U.S. and 25% of all medicine in UK."

In the current milieu, both the nations are blessed with their own pharma hotspots. The Genome Valley in Hyderabad has established itself as a centre for biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries in the country, focussing on the areas of agri-biotech, clinical research management (CRM), biopharma, vaccine manufacturing, regulations and testing, and other related areas.

Similarly, in Basel area, Switzerland, there's a hub being constructed for the future of healthcare with a digital health and personalised healthcare cluster. According to sources, "In Basel, pharma giants Roche and Novartis have made a home for themselves. There are also more than 700 life sciences companies, including many promising startups and more than 1,000 research groups in the Basel region. The area is a thriving place for innovative companies and startups and it has maintained its place as Switzerland's top life sciences cluster."

Indian pharma companies having a presence in Switzerland include Dr. Reddy's, Wockhardt and Glenmark. "The pharmaceutical sector has particularly enjoyed a lot of growth as a result of friendly relations between Switzerland and India." In 2007, Siegfried Biologics, a Switzerland-based company, was acquired by an Avesta-Cipla JV to manufac-



DR. REDDY'S AND GLENMARK ARE AMONG THE FIRMS PRESENT IN COUNTRY

ture U.S. FDA and European Medicines Agency (EMA) compliant biopharmaceuticals for the global markets. A few years back, Indian biopharma giant Biocon collaborated with Sandoz, a unit of Novartis, to develop, manufacture and commercialise multiple biosimilars in immunology and oncology for patients.

Glenmark is an Indian pharma giant with a substantial footprint in the Swiss market. In 2004, Glenmark inaugurated its biologics research centre in Switzerland. Established in 2007 by former employees of Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, Kareus Therapeutics is another im-

portant Indian presence in Switzerland. Enjoying a strong presence in Basel, Dr. Reddy's has witnessed double-digit growth for several years in a row. Similarly, "Rhizen Pharmaceuticals S.A. was incorporated in Switzerland, with the aim to develop and partner compounds originating from Incozen, a biotech company founded in 2008 in Hyderabad to discover novel treatments for oncology and inflammation."

In India, the Life Sciences sector is set to witness huge growth and major transformation in the current decade, owing to demographic, regulatory and technological changes. It is expected that the consumption of Healthcare services will increase as a record 140 million households are expected to enter the middle-class segment in the next decade. As digitalisation continues to change the Healthcare landscape, complex generics and biosimilars will be the key growth drivers.



livinguard

LIVINGUARD AG – Swiss hygiene company protects the health and well-being of billions of humans with the world's first permanent self-disinfecting technology, proven to destroy COVID-19 virus

Livinguard Technology brings a new level of safety and sustainability with unbeatable protection

LIVINGUARD is an environmentally friendly hygiene technology platform based in Zug, Switzerland. It is the first company in the world to empower textiles and other materials with self-disinfecting properties, clinically proven to destroy SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19 causing virus). Livinguard patents its Swiss designed and engineered technologies to companies from various industries with the aim of improving the health and wellbeing of billions of humans the world over. Livinguard AG is a global company and operates in Switzerland, Germany, USA, Singapore, Japan, India, and South Africa. The ever-increasing levels of pollution, global travel, shared mobility, and the prevalence of drug resistant microbes have led to growing threats of infectious disease. The company sees its solutions as essential safeguards that can offer enhanced safety and better health to billions of people. Livinguard believes that its future is tied to sustainable solutions amidst the plethora of non-degradable wastes that threaten our existence on this planet. Its commitment is to develop highly effective technologies that also minimise waste and use of resources. The company views personal and planetary health as inseparable imperatives and the foundational base of everything that they do. Livinguard is a member of the World Economic Forum's Innovators Community.

Today we stand at a juncture where our lives are not just at risk due to the pandemic but also from the protective equipment that we are using to shield ourselves from the virus. It is high time that we realise that many masks readily available in the market are not just spreading misinformation, but also are carcinogenic in nature. Some products have 10-20% of benzalkonium chloride, commonly known as BAC. Studies by scientists have reported respiratory toxicity of BAC. Exposure to BAC induces cytotoxicity and DNA damage in human bronchial cell line and acute or repeated inhalation of BAC induces lung irritation, inflammation, and alveolar damage. Some brands are admittedly using a reaction mass of Titanium Dioxide and Silver Chloride in their products. Fraudulent claims of corona killer masks are also doing the rounds. Titanium Dioxide, the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) has stated, is a suspected carcinogen associated with lung cancer if inhaled by human beings. During the pandemic, this is shameful and blatant profiteering, attempting to take advantage of consumers that are not equipped with accurate information. In developing countries, especially those with enormous diversity, there is a lack of regulation and government oversight and these false claims can harm the lives of hundreds of millions of people.

The need of the hour is an effective antiviral PPE (mask and gloves for example) that can kill and deactivate the virus and in addition is completely biodegradable, without causing any cross contamination to ensure complete safety. Some months ago, India experienced a sci-

entific revolution that was the need of the hour to safeguard humanity and return to a normal life. Livinguard AG launched its revolutionary coronavirus destroying technology incorporated into Livinguard face masks in India, a first in the world. The mask's technology can directly inactivate bacteria and viruses, including 99.9% of the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 /COVID-19 virus. Livinguard will be launching the Livinguard STREET GLOVE at the end of August, therefore offering the most revolutionary and unbeatable protection available.



The mask's technology can directly inactivate bacteria and viruses, including 99.9% of the novel coronavirus



Ultimate protection has arrived with Livinguard mask and gloves - all round protection wherever you go

Make touching safe again with the Livinguard STREET GLOVE, whose COVID-19 destroying technology is proven by top academic institutions

WITH billions of single-use non-biodegradable masks, gloves and PPE kits being discarded daily, we are unwittingly making an insurmountable impact on the environment. As of 18th of August 2020, the world has lost 778,522 people in this pandemic. For those who have survived and are returning to business in this New Normal, it is necessary to be absolutely protected from any virus that can cause unmitigable harm. Statistics say about 80 million gloves are needed by COVID-19 health response teams each month worldwide.

At Livinguard, we had been consciously

moving towards the "Ultimate Sustainable Protection", besides our World's first COVID destroying face masks. We are set to protect humanity by making touching safe again, through a new addition to the "protected by Livinguard" range: the Livinguard 'STREET GLOVE' with CORONA virus destroying technology capacity of up to 99.99%, proven by Freie Universität Berlin, Germany and University of Arizona, Tucson, USA, both renowned for their highest standards. Our endeavour was to craft a glove that reduces cross contamination and in today's world of mobile connectivity offers touchscreen compatibility. These gloves are made of 95% cotton for extreme comfort and everyday personal use. Like our face masks, these too are completely safe, without any usage of harmful metals, sustainable and reusable up to 210 times and 30 washes. The most interesting facet is none of our products require regular washing. The material is engineered with patented Livinguard Technology with strong positive charge (36 billion positive charges per cm²). When microbes come in contact with the fabric, the microbial cell which is negatively charged is destroyed, leading to permanent destruction of the microorganism or virus. Unlike heavy metal-based solutions, such as silver, zinc and copper, this novel technology has been found not only safe for both skin and lungs but also for the environment, due to its non-leaching Technology and 100% biodegradable material.

Now it is time to live again, with a paradigm shift in the provision of safety, security and sustainability. Livinguard is set to further contribute to safe living. The Livinguard STREET GLOVE will provide superior barrier protection without any risk of latex allergies. It is thoroughly optimised and designed to offer the best protection without sacrificing physical dexterity and simultaneously enhancing tactile sensitivity. Time is ticking; it is necessary to have a game-changing solution globally and only a trusted hygiene brand like Livinguard can enable a smooth transition to restarting life and bidding goodbye to the fear of the virus that has halted life for billions of people worldwide. In India, these gloves will soon be available on Nykaa and Flipkart, e-Commerce platforms, and also at www.livinguard.com



INTERVIEW Sanjeev Swamy, Inventor, Founder and CEO, Livinguard AG

We view personal and planetary health as inseparable imperatives and the foundational base of everything that we do

You have recently launched Livinguard masks in India which claim to inactivate 99.9% of SARS COV-2 virus. What is the backing to this claim?

The Livinguard Technology incorporated into Livinguard face masks can directly inactivate bacteria and viruses, including >99.9% of the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. Researchers from Freie Universität Berlin and ITA RWTH Aachen, two of the most recognised academic institutions in virology and textiles, have confirmed the efficacy of the new self-disinfecting technology in permanently destroying the new coronavirus when applied to textiles or surfaces.

We already have powerful data against various microbes including the influenza virus, tuberculosis bacteria, superbugs like MRSA and VRE, commonly occurring bacteria like Staph. aureus and E. coli, and even fungi like Aspergillus niger, T. rubrum, and Candida albicans. We have of course positively tested several others as well.

Does this claim have any certification from a third party?

Researchers from the Free University of Berlin at the Institute for Animal Hygiene and Environmental Health have been able to demonstrate that textiles treated with Livinguard Technology can reduce very high amounts of SARS-CoV-2 particles by more than 99.9% within a few hours. Our mission is to provide hygiene suited for the modern world; that is the reason we chose to conduct our tests at the FU Berlin, which is renowned for its highest standards.

These scientific results follow up on similar findings from the University of Arizona, Tucson

and are especially relevant now as countries gradually ease lockdown restrictions and populations seek a return to a "Next Normal".

What inspired you to create such a mask?

We had been developing face masks earlier but were trying to address the problem of air pollution, which is perhaps the most salient silent pandemic that has been destroying lives and the planet for years. When the current pandemic hit, we had already been destroying a wide range of viruses, bacteria and fungi in other product areas and knew that marrying these two areas of expertise would be a great benefit during today's times. We recognised the responsibility we had to help protect people as they return to a new normal and try to reclaim their daily lives. We needed to be sure of our efficacy against this virus, and have been redesigning the product for a world where people need protection throughout the day, getting the necessary regulatory clearances, and updating and thoroughly testing our technology's efficacy against the COVID-19 virus. This is a culmination of years of effort including over 65,000 experiments and filing of more than 100 patents.

Kindly elaborate on the technology that enables the mask to kill the virus

The principle underlying the Livinguard Technology is to empower the textile surface with a strong positive charge. When microbes come in contact with the fabric, the microbial cell which is negatively charged is destroyed, leading to permanent destruction of the microorganism. Unlike heavy metal-based solutions such as silver, zinc and copper, this novel



The Livinguard Technology destroys microbes continuously and allows people to reuse the mask as many as 210 times with no compromise on safety or efficacy

technology has been found to be safe for both skin and lungs. Moreover, Livinguard Technology destroys continuously and allows users to reuse the mask up to 210 times with no compromise on safety or efficacy. Livinguard AG believes that the future is tied to sustainable solutions that treat our world kindly. The Livinguard Face Mask not only harnesses powerful coronavirus destroying technology but it's been tested as safe for use since it is entirely free of harmful substances such as silver, zinc or copper that are used for inferior and conventional antimicrobial technologies and it also minimises waste and uses resources efficiently.

Are these masks being produced in India? Does it support the Make in India campaign? What is the production capacity?

We currently have the capacity to produce 150,000 masks per week in India alone. Because one of our masks performs for >200 uses, this is the equivalent of 30 million single use masks per week, except that it destroys the COVID virus, is safe, comfortable and convenient to use, and creates far less waste than the alternatives. Our research shows that if a million people use one reusable Livinguard mask 210 times, we can save 36,000 tonnes of waste. We have been selling masks to public and private institutions in bulk for distribution to employees and are working with leading e-commerce platforms such as Nykaa and Flipkart, ensuring the masks become available to Indian consumers more broadly. Beyond retail and enterprise sales, even some governments around the world are distributing the masks

to their frontline workers and residents. So far, Livinguard has sold nearly 5 lakhs masks in India and if one Livinguard mask is equivalent to 210 normal single use masks then by selling 5 lakhs masks in India, Livinguard replaced 105,000,000 single use masks.

LIVINGUARD FACE MASKS ARE MADE IN INDIA, BY INDIANS, FOR INDIANS AND THEREFORE 100% MADE IN INDIA. We have a laboratory and textile processing facilities in Navi Mumbai, and the face masks are being made near Bengaluru. This is a labour-intensive stitching process and offers a great means to generate employment during such dark times when daily wage earners are struggling to earn a living.

Does Livinguard endeavour to provide better hygiene security for the country and world at large?

Helping create a superior quality of daily life has always been our aim. Our mission is to provide hygiene suited for the modern world. The ever-increasing levels of pollution, global travel, shared mobility, and the prevalence of drug resistant microbes have led to growing threats of infectious disease. We see our solutions as essential safeguards that can offer enhanced safety and better health to billions of people. We, at Livinguard, believe that our future is tied to sustainable solutions amidst non-degradable wastes that threaten our existence on this planet. Our commitment is to develop highly effective technologies that also minimise waste and use of resources. We view personal and planetary health as inseparable imperatives and the foundational base of everything that we do.



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