

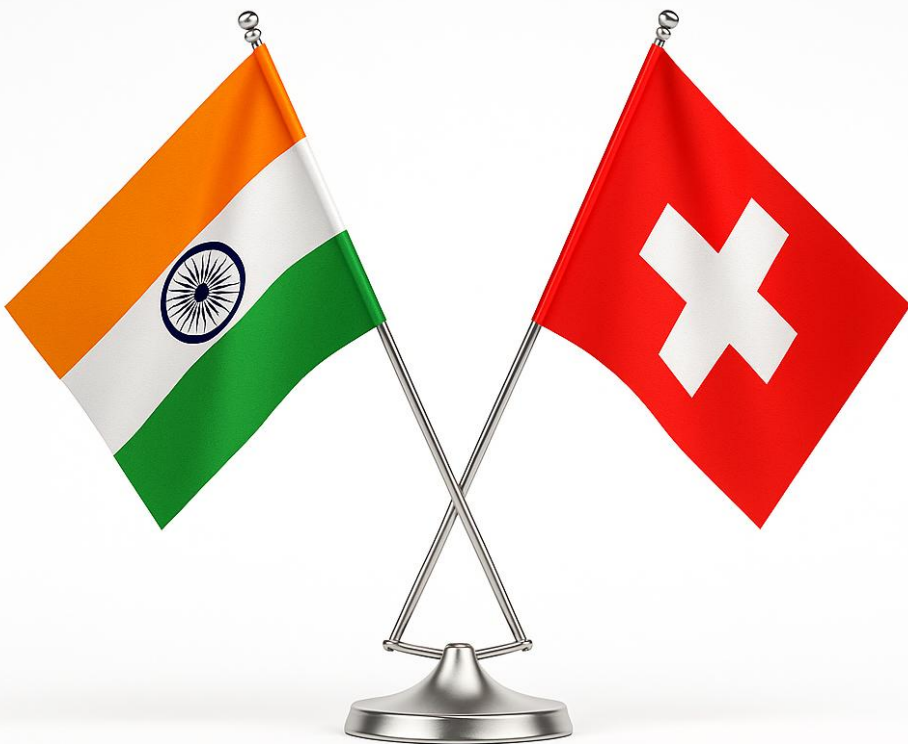


SWISS-INDIAN  
CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE

# NEWSLETTER

**April 2025 – September 2025**

**A WINNING PARTNERSHIP FOR  
INDIA AND SWITZERLAND**





## Message from SICC President - India

**Satish Rao**

*Warm greetings to you!*

Dear Members,

Let me begin by thanking each one of you for making the past year such an exciting and fulfilling journey. It has truly been a year of meaningful connections, impactful initiatives, and a renewed sense of purpose for our Chamber.

We entered 2025–26 with tremendous energy — starting with our National Event, the All India Chamber Meet in Kochi, followed by a dynamic line-up of Chapter events across the country.

In this edition of our newsletter, we invite you to look back at the vibrant array of engagements held from April to September 2025. These events reflected a balanced mix of focus areas including compliance, technology, sustainability, regional expansion, industry visits, academia collaboration, and cultural celebrations. Each initiative continues to strengthen our value proposition and reinforces our position as the Chamber of choice for engagement within the Indo-Swiss ecosystem.

Thank you once again for being an integral part of this vibrant and growing community. I hope you enjoy reading this edition as much as we enjoyed curating it for you.

# Events Recap

## National Event

While the Chamber continues to create engagement among the chapter members, we also curate National Events where members across pan-India are invited, fostering camaraderie and deeper connections within the Indo-Swiss community.

### All India Chamber Meet – held in Kochi (April 2025)

The 2nd All India Chamber Meet in Kochi was a resounding success, blending insight, connection, and celebration. Ambassador Maya Tissafi's presence and the unveiling of "Switzerland's Economic Growth in India" underscored deepening Indo-Swiss ties. Shiv Shivakumar's keynote offered a warm, inclusive reflection on the shared values and economic outlook of both nations. Cultural festivities, boat rides, and a gala dinner added unforgettable charm, setting the stage for the upcoming Swiss-India Conclave 2026.



Maya Tissafi  
Ambassador of Switzerland to India & Bhutan  
Embassy of Switzerland in India



Sadhya-Traditional feast



Ambassador Maya Tissafi with SICC India Board Members (Satish Rao, Raguram, Colonel Chandhok)



Members in Traditional Dress of Kerala

## Chapter Events

We have created a **balanced mix of events** across compliance, technology, sustainability, regional expansion, industry visits, academia collaboration, and cultural celebration. Each of these is adding more value to members and builds our presence as the **Chamber of choice** for engagement.

### Strengthening Compliance Awareness

#### Navigating BIS Regulations - An Urgent Compliance: By our Knowledge Partner Rodel , Mumbai

The Swiss-Indian Chamber of Commerce – West Chapter kicked off 2025 with a session on navigating BIS regulations for market access in India. Experts from Roedl & Partner India, including Gaurav Khanna and Mayyank Tripathi, unpacked key updates like Scheme X, the Omnibus Technical Regulation Order 2024, and the role of Authorized Indian Representatives. The session emphasized the importance of compliance to avoid penalties and ensure smooth entry for manufacturers. Attendees gained actionable insights and built valuable connections, reinforcing SICC's commitment to empowering its members.



Gaurav Khanna  
Partner, Roedl & Partner India



Mayyank Tripathi  
Consultant, Roedl & Partner India

### Sustainability at the Core

#### Leveraging Sustainability for People, Profits, and Planet – Mumbai

To mark World Environment Day, the Swiss-Indian Chamber of Commerce hosted a powerful session on "Leveraging Sustainability for People, Profits, and Planet." Keynote speaker Manish Advani led an interactive activity where members collaborated on real-world sustainability challenges and solutions. The event was enriched by Consul General Martin Maier's insights and Switzerland's new "Sustainability with a Plus" initiative. Members concluded by signing personal pledges, reaffirming their commitment to responsible and impactful action.



Manish Advani  
CEO, MIMO Potentio



Martin Maier  
Consul General of Switzerland in Mumbai



# Technology & the Future of Legal Functions

## AI's Role in Legal and Compliance's Future – New Delhi

The Swiss-Indian Chamber of Commerce – North Chapter hosted a dynamic session on the impact of Artificial Intelligence in legal and compliance domains. Arpinder Singh shared insights on how AI is revolutionizing legal operations and addressing emerging compliance challenges. Swiss forensic experts Marvin Schilling and Adrian Ott highlighted cross-border regulatory complexities and global risk trends. The event fostered meaningful dialogue on Indo-Swiss collaboration in navigating evolving legal frameworks.



Arpinder Singh  
Global Markets & India, Leader,  
EY Forensic & Integrity Service

## Welcomes & Transitions Across Chapters

### Special SICC x Swissnex Gathering - Bangalore

The Swiss-Indian Chamber of Commerce – South Chapter hosted a heartfelt evening to welcome Dr. Angela Honegger as the new Consul General in Bangalore and bid farewell to Jonas Brunschwig. Their dialogue reflected on Swissnex's impactful journey in India, rooted in sustainability, innovation, and technology. Sanjay Madhavan, Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Tamil Nadu, added depth to the occasion with his presence and support. Members shared inspiring sustainability stories, emphasizing responsible leadership and community engagement.



Jonas Brunschwig  
CEO | Consul General  
Swissnex in India

Angela Honegger  
Consul General of  
Switzerland in Bangalore

Sanjay Madhavan  
Honorary Consul of  
Switzerland in Tamil Nadu

## Factory Visit to Explore: Industry 5.0 Bangalore

The Swiss-Indian Chamber of Commerce – South Chapter organized a factory visit to ABB, highlighting the transformative impact of Industry 5.0. Members observed how technology and automation are enhancing collaboration between humans, machines, and the environment. The visit emphasized that while automation streamlines tasks, it also empowers people to focus on innovation and strategy. SAJU S R from ABB underscored the importance of embracing change and investing in continuous skill development.



## Farewell & Welcome Reception

The Swiss-Indian Chamber of Commerce joined the Embassy of Switzerland in India and Bhutan to bid farewell to Jean-Baptiste Délèze, Head of Economy, Trade and Finance. His tenure marked a historic milestone with the signing of the TEPA Agreement, enhancing Indo-Swiss economic cooperation. National President Satish Rao honored his contributions with a heartfelt speech, reflecting the chamber's appreciation. The event brought together members and partners from across India, celebrating the enduring spirit of collaboration, friendship, and innovation.



Jean-Baptiste Délèze  
Head of Economy, Trade & Finance.  
Embassy of Switzerland in India & Bhutan



## Spotlight on Emerging Regions

### Swiss-India Business Landscape – Kolkata

The Swiss-Indian Chamber of Commerce's East Chapter in Kolkata hosted a vibrant gathering of industry leaders to foster Indo-Swiss business collaboration. Ambassador Maya Tissafi highlighted the transformative potential of the TEPA Agreement, opening new avenues for innovation and partnership. Swiss excellence in technology and India's vast talent pool were celebrated as complementary strengths for global impact. With support from Umesh Chowdhary and the Indian Chamber of Commerce, the event marked a promising start to deeper regional engagement.



Maya Tissafi  
Ambassador of Switzerland to India & Bhutan  
Embassy of Switzerland in India

## Innovation Through Industry & Research Visits

### Swiss-Indian CXO Dialogue on Skills and Apprenticeship - Bangalore

The Swiss-Indian Chamber of Commerce – South Chapter hosted an Exclusive CXO Breakfast Session focused on apprenticeships as a solution to India's evolving workforce needs. Adecco's leadership team led the discussion, emphasizing the importance of scalable, inclusive skilling models to bridge persistent skill gaps. The event, graciously hosted by Swissnex in India and the Consulate General of Switzerland, highlighted how apprenticeships can empower youth and build a future-ready workforce. Participants left energized, united in their commitment to shaping a skilled and adaptable talent pool.



Christophe Catoir  
EVP & President,  
Adecco Workforce Solutions,

# Innovation Through Industry & Research Visits

## Exclusive visit to IIT Madras Research Park - Chennai

The Swiss-Indian Chamber of Commerce facilitated a business growth initiative through academic collaboration, emphasizing applied research and development. Members visited IIT Madras Research Park, a leading hub for industry-academia synergy and innovation. The delegation explored the park's ecosystem, including startup demos and insights from Nat Malupillai on collaborative innovation.



Natarajan Malupillai  
Group CEO, IITMRP (Center)



## Celebrating Swiss National Day - Mumbai

The West Chapter of the Swiss-Indian Chamber of Commerce in Mumbai celebrated Swiss National Day with members and partners, highlighting the spirit of Indo-Swiss friendship and collaboration. Mr. Martin Maier, Consul General of Switzerland, shared reflections on the day's significance, while Florin Muller provided updates on the landmark TEPA agreement. The event marked a milestone in bilateral ties between India and EFTA nations. Soulful Swiss music by Indian artists added warmth and cultural harmony to the celebration.



Martin Maier  
Consul General of  
Switzerland in Mumbai



Florin Müller  
Head of Swiss Business  
Hub India





# Events Snapshot

## April – September 2025

From compliance, technology, sustainability, and regional expansion to industry immersion, academic collaboration, and cultural celebration — **we delivered a diverse calendar of high-value engagements that strengthened our presence as the Chamber of choice**

| Date                   | Event   | City      |
|------------------------|---|-----------|
| 11th to 13th April     | All India Chamber Meet  | Kochi     |
| 8th May                | Navigating BIS Regulations- An Urgent Compliance                                    | Mumbai    |
| 5th June               | Leveraging Sustainability for People, Profits, and Planet                           | Mumbai    |
| 11th June              | AI's Role in Legal and Compliance's Future  | New Delhi |
| 24th June              | Special SICC x Swissnex Gathering   | Bangalore |
| 25th June              | Swiss-India Business Landscape  | Kolkata   |
| 3rd July               | Farewell & Welcome Reception -Jean-Baptiste Délèze,                                 | New Delhi |
| 16th July              | Swiss-Indian CXO Dialogue on Skills and Apprenticeship                              | Bangalore |
| 2nd August             | Celebrate Swiss National Day with Us  | Mumbai    |
| 12th August            | Factory Visit to Explore: Industry 5.0  | Bangalore |
| 22nd August            | Exclusive visit to IIT Madras Research Park   | Chennai   |
| 1st September          | Exclusive Roundtable Discussion on "Doing business in India and the impact of TEPA" | Mumbai    |
| 9th September          | Enhancing Efficiency & Sustainability in Industrial Operations                      | Pune      |
| 9th September          | Income repatriation from India: What Swiss companies need to know                   | Webinar   |
| 12th September         | Exclusive CXO Dialogue on Skills and Apprenticeship                                 | Pune      |
| 18th to 19th September | ICC Global Business Summit  | Mumbai    |

# Welcoming New Members

**AMMANN**

**BUCHER**  
hydraulics

**CBRE**

**CHAIN**  
**IQ**

 **BAKELS**  
BAKERY INGREDIENTS SINCE 1904

**m**  
**sc**  
MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY

**NEXT GEN**  
EQUIPMENTS PVT. LTD.

 **Lombardi**

**Perusal Global**

**Client  
Associates**  
Private Wealth Management

 **Schwihag**

 **step**  
SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGIES FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PVT. LTD.

 **HSBC**

**Deutsche Bank** 

 **CHEMO**

 **SICIL**  
Serving Life Science Education, Research & Industry...

**WM**  
WILLEM-MACODEL

 **VBL**

# Chamber Partner Feature

## Aarayaa Advisory Services Pvt. Ltd.

Aarayaa Advisory Services Pvt. Ltd. is a boutique, non-fund-based investment bank specializing in cross-border advisory for companies investing into and out of India. The firm supports Indian businesses in global expansion and helps foreign companies enter the Indian market, offering services across M&A, fundraising, valuation, restructuring, and international tax planning. With a multidisciplinary team and a strong global network, Aarayaa delivers seamless, locally informed solutions for complex international transactions. The firm is the exclusive Indian member of the **Corporate Finance International (CFI)** network and has been consistently ranked among India's leading mid-market advisors. Its sister company, **V.B. Desai Financial Services Ltd.**, is a SEBI-registered Category I Merchant Banker with a long-standing track record in public offerings.

### Contact Person

**Raj Shroff** : [raj@aarayaa.com](mailto:raj@aarayaa.com)

## From Reporting to Returns: How ESG is Reshaping Investment Decisions - Raj Shroff & Srujan Poojary (Aarayaa – CFI India)

Over the past decade, Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) factors have evolved from being a voluntary reporting exercise to a powerful determinant of capital allocation. As sustainability risks and opportunities are increasingly factored into financial decision-making, ESG performance has shifted from the sidelines to the mainstream. Today, it plays a central role in how investors evaluate a company's long-term value, resilience, and strategic viability.

### The ESG>Returns Nexus

Investors are shifting their focus from what is disclosed to what it delivers. While early ESG strategies revolved around frameworks and compliance checklists, today's institutional investors demand measurable outcomes, be it reduced carbon emissions, improved board diversity, ethical supply chains, or evidence of long-term risk mitigation.

This shift toward ESG-centric investing is backed by growing empirical evidence. Companies with strong ESG performance, often referred to as ESG leaders, tend to outperform their peers in several key dimensions:

**Lower Cost of Capital:** Strong ESG credentials reduce perceived risk, enabling access to funding at more favourable rates.

**Higher Operational Efficiency:** Sustainability initiatives such as energy efficiency and waste reduction translate into real cost savings.

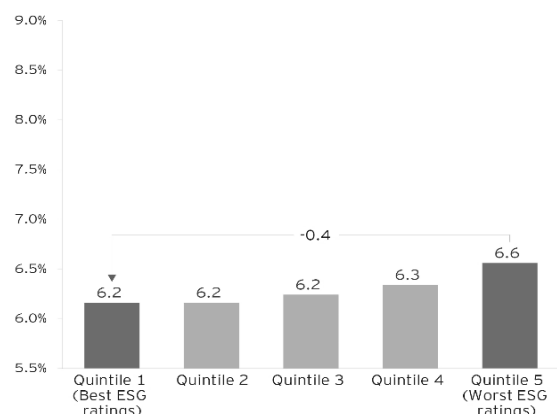
**Enhanced Brand Equity:** Commitment to social responsibility and sound governance fosters trust, loyalty and stakeholder engagement.

**Resilient Market Performance:** ESG-aligned companies typically show greater stability and downside protection, particularly during periods of market volatility or systemic crises.



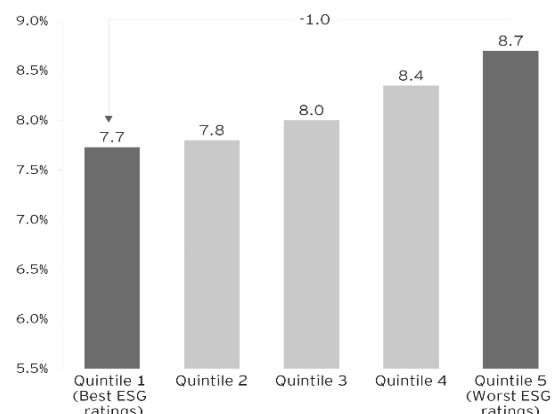
## ESG impact on cost of capital

Cost of capital in developed markets  
(by MSCI ESG performance quintile)



Sources: "ESG and the cost of capital," MSCI website, February 2020, MSCI, 2022 and EY-Parthenon analysis.

Cost of capital in emerging markets  
(by MSCI ESG performance quintile)



## From Screening to Integration

The initial phase of ESG investing relied heavily on negative screening, excluding “sin stocks” such as tobacco, coal, or firearms. In contrast, modern ESG integration goes far beyond exclusion. Today, ESG factors are fully embedded into valuation models and due diligence processes. Examples include:

- Carbon emissions and climate risk incorporated into cash flow forecasts and capital allocation.
- Corporate governance quality influencing assumptions for cost of equity and risk premiums.
- Social factors, such as labor practices and community impact, shaping scenario analysis and continuity planning.

Whether it's private equity firms, sovereign wealth funds, banks, or credit rating agencies, ESG is no longer a secondary consideration, it is a core determinant of investment attractiveness, capital allocation, and risk assessment.

## What This Means for Companies

The evolving ESG landscape sends a clear signal: sustainability performance is now a driver of value creation, not just risk mitigation. Companies that approach ESG merely as a compliance checkbox risk falling behind in capital markets and stakeholder trust. In contrast, organizations that embed ESG principles into their core strategy, operational execution, and innovation agenda are more likely to attract long-term investors, benefit from valuation premiums, and secure a competitive edge. ESG excellence is fast becoming a marker of business resilience, future readiness, and leadership in a purpose-driven economy.

# Chamber Partner Feature

## Rödl & Partner

Rödl & Partner is a leading international professional services firm based in Germany, delivering integrated **audit, legal, tax, and business consulting** solutions. With over **6,000 experts across 50 countries and 116 offices**, the firm focuses on advising globally active mid-sized companies, especially German and European family-owned businesses. Rödl & Partner is known for its “one-firm” approach, offering seamless cross-border support through a unified global network.

The firm provides expertise in areas such as international tax structuring, transfer pricing, corporate law, M&A transactions, financial audits, compliance, and business process outsourcing. In India, Rödl & Partner has a strong presence with multiple offices, assisting foreign investors and multinational companies in navigating India’s regulatory, tax, and business landscape. Its combination of global reach, multidisciplinary capabilities, and deep understanding of international business makes it a trusted partner for companies expanding or operating globally.

### Contact Person

**Jamly John** : [jamly.john@roedl.com](mailto:jamly.john@roedl.com)

## Turning Presence into Power: Scaling Up Swiss Innovation Hubs and R&D Centers in India

India’s Global Capability Centre (GCC) ecosystem has matured into a global innovation backbone — today hosting roughly 1,700–1,760 GCCs that span IT services, analytics, digital platforms, and product engineering. These centers are shifting from cost arbitrage to strategic capability delivery, owning functions such as product designing, AI/analytics, cybersecurity and life-sciences support. Against this backdrop, Swiss corporate presence in India is meaningful but under-leveraged. Approximately **320–330 Swiss companies** currently operate in India. Of these, **108 companies (≈32.9%) have manufacturing facilities in India**, underlining Switzerland’s strong industrial footprint. However, only **~29–30 companies (≈8.8%) have established R&D, technical centers, or GCCs in India** — a small fraction when compared with U.S. peers that have embraced India’s GCC ecosystem at scale.

While Switzerland is among the world’s top R&D investors, its Indian footprint is inadequately focused on innovation-led mandates, representing an opportunity for Swiss companies to take advantage of India’s tech pool at competitive costs. These strategic opportunities are compelling. Digital engineering — encompassing Industry 4.0, IIoT, and automation — can accelerate Swiss MEM (machinery, electrical, and precision engineering) competitiveness. AI-driven product design and simulation can shorten time-to-market for Swiss precision products. In healthcare and MedTech, Indian R&D centers can deliver cost-efficient clinical data analytics, regulatory support, and localized product adaptation.

**To unlock this potential, leading Swiss firms have already begun taking deliberate steps — yet a broader set of companies must follow suit:**

#### **Forge partnerships with research institutions**

For instance, ABB's Innovation Center in Bengaluru already collaborates with academic institutions in robotics and digital engineering. Expanding such models can accelerate skill pipelines and knowledge transfer.

#### **Collaborate with startup ecosystem**

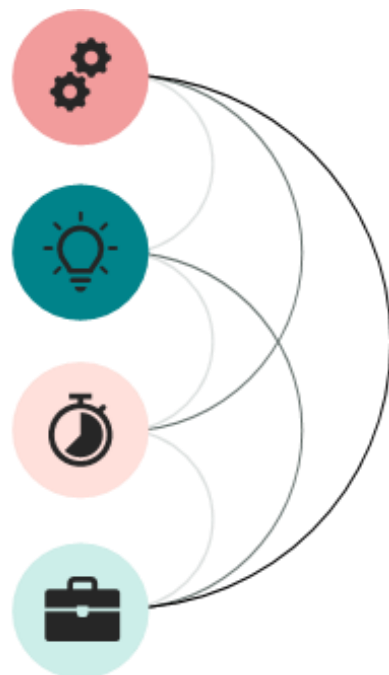
Swiss Re GBS India, for example, engages with insurtech startups to co-create next-gen solutions. Structured accelerator programs can bring disruptive innovations into Swiss portfolios.

#### **Pursue M&A route**

Swiss firms have the potential to accelerate their innovation agenda in India by pursuing targeted M&A — particularly in clinical analytics, affordable diagnostics, and IoT-driven industrial solutions — enabling rapid scale-up of capabilities and global product pipelines.

#### **Evolve Indian GCC into strategic innovation hubs**

Nestlé's R&D Centre in India now drives category innovation, while UBS Business Solutions India is moving into digital banking innovation.



By broadening their R&D and GCC footprint, Swiss companies can transform their Indian operations into a **strategic network of high-value innovation hub and manufacturing facilities**, reinforcing Switzerland's global leadership in engineering, healthcare, and digital transformation.



# Thank You

## Together, We Thrive

We invite you, dear members, to make the coming year just as exciting with your presence, participation and unwavering support



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