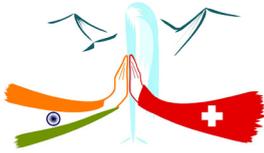




**“India is the cradle of the human race, the birthplace of human speech, the mother of history, the grandmother of legend and the great grandmother of tradition.”**

**Mark Twain**





## **Welcome to Namaste Geneva**

Organized in the 70th year of India's independence, in partnership with the World Intellectual Property Organization, Indian Associations in Geneva and Lausanne, Indian diaspora and friends of India, Namaste Geneva celebrates India's rich cultural traditions and her modern achievements.

The event showcases the exceptional talents of the Indian diaspora and friends of India living in Switzerland.

As you will see, Indian culture is unique but it has universal appeal.

And as the performances will also show, India's traditions are very much alive and thriving, practiced avidly by millions of people around the world.

You may well be inspired to join them. We hope so.

# Program

16:00	<b>Screening of documentaries</b> Yoga, Indian Diaspora, Indian Sari, E-visa	
16:30	<b>Inaugural Function - Welcome Remarks</b> Ganesh Vandana by Ms. Sonal Pndharkar Kulkarni and group lighting of traditional Indian Lamp.	10 mins
16:45	<b>Bharatanatyam – by OMKARA School of Indian Dance</b> (Indian Classical Dance)	15 mins
17:00	<b>Presentation - Hearts for India Foundation</b>	10 mins
17:10	<b>Folk Dance - (Punjabi &amp; Kashmiri)</b> by Nachle Dance Company, Zurich	6 mins
17:20	<b>Photo Presentation by Mr. Sandeep De, Lausanne</b>	5 mins
17:25	<b>Kathak by Ms. Amika Kushwaha, Canada</b> (Indian Classical Dance)	15 mins
17:40	<b>Presentation - Science projects by EPFL students</b>	10 mins
17:50	<b>Folk Dance– (Rajasthani &amp; Gujarati)</b> by Nachle Dance Company, Zurich	6 mins

18:00	<b>Odissi by Ms. Dipti Abhilasha, Zurich</b> (Indian Classical Dance)	15 mins
18:15	<b>Presentation by Ecolint on India Project</b> Miss. Sheena Ryan and Miss Bani Gill	10 mins
18:25	<b>Bollywood dance by Nachle Dance Company, Zurich</b>	6 mins
18:40	<b>Tabla by Maestro Cassius Khan, Canada</b> (Indian Classical Instrument)	20 mins

*Free event – All are invited to attend with families and friends.  
Only ID required for entry*

**On Saturday, September 23, 2017**

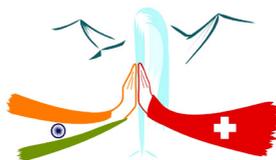
**From 4 p.m.**

At the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

New Conference Hall

34 chemin des Colombettes

Geneva



**NAMASTE GENEVA**

From the Himalayas to the Alps  
A celebration of Indian Culture



॥ **Omkaara** ॥  
School of Indian Dance

SUBITHA VENKATESH  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, OMKAARA  
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# Omkaara School of Indian Dance

Omkaara School of Indian Dance has been promoting Indian culture since 1987, specializing in Bharatanatyam (South Indian classical dance).

From our base in the Geneva area, we welcome students of many nationalities, from many different walks of life.

Our aim is to foster a deep understanding and passion for the art form through a better understanding of Indian culture and the philosophy that is its backbone. We strive to guide and encourage students to develop grace, perfection and perseverance while increasing awareness of traditional Indian and culture arts in and around Geneva.





HEART FOR INDIA  
FOUNDATION

# Heart for India Foundation

As Nelson Mandela said, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

Heart for India Foundation aims to transform lives in India by supporting helping people gain the benefits of learning.

We help underprivileged children aged from three to 18 to access education, and we also run training centers offering young women a route out of poverty through professional training.

Our programs have achieved dramatic results. The success rate of the children we support has more than doubled to reach 90 percent, while hundreds of young women have found work after completing our training.

Created by Princess Françoise Sturdza, the Foundation began work in 2005. We are a completely non-political, non-governmental and non-religious organization, and rely on the generosity of our donors.





# Nachle Dance Company

Based in Zurich Switzerland, Nachle Dance Company specializes in Indian folk and Bollywood styles.

We have an extensive repertoire of dance productions, and have delivered many successful performances. We aim to entertain audiences while also acting as a cultural ambassador of authentic Indian culture and dance. We conduct classes and workshops in Bollywood and Indian folk dance around Switzerland for experts and beginners alike.

Our performances at Namaste India will feature folk dances from various different regions. First up are dances from Northern India, a land of big hearts, big laughs and riotous celebration. A mix of cultures over millennia has assimilated in Punjab the land of five rivers and India's own Switzerland – Kashmir.

Our second performance takes you to West India. From the deserts of Rajasthan comes a palace dance, and we will also showcase the Garba and Dandiya Raas – the most popular performance arts from Gujarat.

Last but not least, we are proud to present a Bollywood extravaganza.

# Dipti Abhilasha

Odissi is an ancient form of classical Indian dance that originated in the Hindu temples of Odisha in eastern India. It is characterized by lyrical grace and elaborate, rounded movements.

Originally from Mysore, India, but now based in Switzerland, Dipti Abhilasha studied Odissi under Guru Dr. Minati Mishra. She also learned Bharatanatyam dance from Guru Smt. Nandini Esver, and a host of other South Indian and East Indian folk dances from native traditional artists.

Dr. Abhilasha's dancing is further enhanced by her exploration of yoga. She has explored the philosophy of yoga deeply, and seeks to incorporate yogic postures in dancing.





## Cassius Khan

Cassius Khan is a globally renowned Indian classical musician based in Canada.

He plays the tabla, the North Indian pair of drums, while singing classical Ghazal and Thumri (poetry in Urdu and Hindi).

Mr. Khan's feat in singing and playing tabla simultaneously is unmatched in the world of Indian classical music. What is more, he performs in the Tarannum Ang Gayaki style, in which the lyrics follow a different meter from the rhythm but they join at the "sum point" in a certain phrase.

Mr. Khan will be accompanied by his wife, the Kathak dancer Amika Kushwaha.



# Amika Kushwaha

Amika Kushwaha from New Westminster in British Columbia, Canada, is an award-winning exponent of Kathak, one of the major forms of classical Indian dance.

Ms. Kushwaha trained in the Lucknow Gharana or school of the dance, and combines grace, beauty, and fluidity of movement with immense strength and stamina as she tackles mathematically difficult compositions.

Ms. Kushwaha will be accompanied by her husband, tabla master Cassius Khan (who will also perform separately later in the afternoon). Spontaneous interplay between movement and music is a hallmark of their craft, and means that no two performances are ever the same.





सत्यमेव जयते  
भारत का स्थायी मिशन  
जेनेवा

PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE



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