



*Namasté
{nah-mas-tay}*

My soul honours your soul.

*I honour the place in you where
the entire universe resides.*

*I honour the light, love, truth,
beauty & peace within you,
because it is also within me.*

*In sharing these things we are
united, we are the same,*

We are one.

Permanent Mission of India to the
United Nations Office and Other
International Organizations in
Geneva

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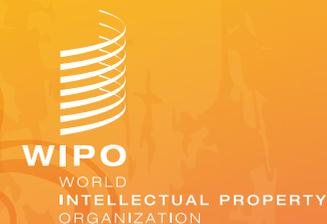
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Namaste Geneva 2018 A Celebration of Indian Culture

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2018

3.00 – 6.00 P.M.

WIPO CONFERENCE HALL



NAMASTE GENEVA 2018

“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

In partnership with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), 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 & beyond.

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.



SUJATHA VENKATESH
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, OMKARA
WWW.OMKARA-SCHOOL.COM
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Omkara School of Indian Dance

Sujatha Venkatesh is not new to the dance scene in Geneva, Switzerland, which has been her work theatre for the last three decades. She is the Founder and Artistic Director of Omkara School of Indian Dance based in Geneva.

She strongly believes that dance is the ultimate form of expression, one that transcends race, culture and religion. In the spirit of sharing knowledge with no strings attached to conformed social norms Omkara is home to students from varied backgrounds, culture and walks of life who share their experiences of life and dance, grow together and dance together in an atmosphere of complete harmony enriched with spiritual and cultural diversity.

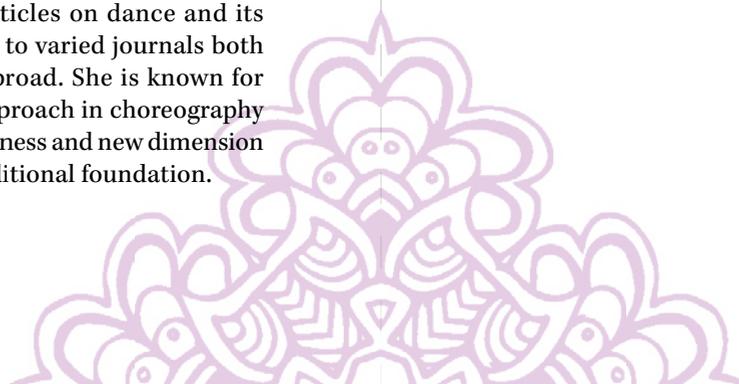
She has trained many students and has choreographed many presentations across Europe. She has also worked as a dance therapist under the able guidance of Dr. Arpin (Transcultural Consultations) using her skills as a dancer. This added another dimension to her dance and helped her to research and learn new teaching methods to adapt in her class room. Having studied Ayurveda and Reflexology she has contributed articles on dance and its health benefits to varied journals both in India and abroad. She is known for her creative approach in choreography bringing a freshness and new dimension to a strong traditional foundation.

Dr. Naveen Singh Suhag

Born in Haryana, an Indian state, Dr. Suhag graduated from Hansraj College, Delhi. Moved to Zürich and did his Master degree in Business management. Later awarded PhD in Sports Science.

Dr. Suhag also earned several medals in wrestling Competitions for India and represented Switzerland also at Wrestling World Championship. He is currently CEO of a Telecom and IT Company in Switzerland focussing on health tech. sector.

A believer in Indian concept of Karma and Swiss Values of punctuality, hard-working and precision, Dr. Naveen Suhag keeps his strong links with Wrestling in India, as well as in Switzerland.





Lenalaxmi Shatokhina and Dance Group Laxmi Samarpana

Kyiv, Ukraine

Participants Ms. Olena Shatokhin (Lenalaxmi), Ms. Eleonora Petrakova, Ms. Kateryna Lilik, Mr. Oleg Melnyk, Ms. Illvira Khamzina and Ms. Iryna Kashyna

Exponent of Indian Classical dance style in Kuchipudi and Russian Classical ballet, also a film maker-with broad-based experience.

Over 30 years of dance experience, 10 years of which were in classical ballet and folk, 20 years in Kuchipudi dance style. Lenalaxmi is a disciple of legendary masters of Kuchipudi - Padma Bhushan Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam and Vempati Ravi Shankar. She has been learning this Indian Classical dance form from them since 1999 under guidance of H.H. Mataji Nirmala Devi Shrivastava from Kuchipudi Art Academy in Chennai, where she studied theory and practical aspect of Kuchipudi dance, music and Sanskrit.



Lenalaxmi has performed at various prestigious festivals and conducted workshops all over India including at the festival of "Indian Classical Dance by Foreign Artistes Resident in India" by ICCR in Delhi. Lenalaxmi travelled with Kuchipudi Art Academy troupe to New Zealand and later on did her own programs as well in Australia, Italy, Moldova, Canada, various programs in Ukraine and Russia.

In 2008 she as well graduated choreographic college in Kiev as artist of ballet, teacher and choreographer in 2010 from "L.V. Prasad Film and TV Academy" in Chennai as film director. Her diploma film

"Devadasi" has already traveled to more than 10 film festivals receiving accolades in India, Russia and Ukraine.

Her school "Laxmi Samarpana" is conducting regular classes in Kyiv, Ukraine as well as online classes for students from other countries.



Indian Cuisine – Ms. Annapoorna Boccasam

With a mission to inspire conscious living, Annapoorna creatively weaves three unique disciplines of Architecture, Food and Social Impact by helping people make balanced choices that increase their quality of life.

Her Plant - based food experiences are founded on a culinary journey of East meets West, firmly rooted in Ayurvedic principles and hand-me-down wisdom while addressing hands-on the issues of food security, environmental pollution and hunger.

With a career that spans more than two decades in Architecture and Sustainable Development, she is acutely mindful of our impact on the environment and our environment on our well-being. Her passion for a holistic approach to life, unlocking the abundance mindset and detoxing your living and work spaces, has led her to initiate projects that are creative, inclusive and fun ways that encourage people to engage in and evolve from.

Tech Mahindra

Tech Mahindra

Tech Mahindra represents the connected world, offering innovative and customer-centric information technology services and solutions, enabling Enterprises, Associates and the Society to Rise™. We are a USD 4.8 billion company with 112,900+ professionals across 90 countries, helping over 910 global customers including Fortune 500 companies. Our innovation platforms and reusable assets connect across a number of technologies to deliver tangible business value to our stakeholders. We are also among the leaders of mobility solutions, and the usage of this technology to transform lives through Financial Inclusion. With an expansive suite of productized solutions, we cater to over two billion mobile users globally. Tech Mahindra is also amongst the Fab 50 companies in Asia as per the Forbes 2016 List.

Rise
for Good

Program

- 15:00 **Curtain raiser - Documentary Films**
- 15:30 **Inauguration & welcome speech**
- 15:40 **Classical Dance Bharatanatyam by Sujatha Venkatesh and Documentary on 'Jala – the Dance of Water'**
- 16:00 **Presentation by Indo -Swiss Sportsperson**
Dr. Naveen Singh Suhag
- 16:05 **Classical Dance Kuchipudi Dance - Shivoha-Shivoham**
by Ukrainian Indian Dance Group Laxmi Samarpana
- 16:10 **Presentation on Indian Cuisine**
by Ms. Annapoorna Boccasam
- 16:15 **Documentary Quantum India**
- 16:20 **Presentation by Indian IT Company Tech Mahindra**
- 16:25 **Classical Dance Kuchipudi**
by Ukrainian dancer Lenalaxmi
- 16:35 **Presentation by Indian Doctor Dr. Kishore Sandu of Lausanne University Hospital**
- 16:40 **Short Film/documentary**
- 16:45 **Classical Dance Odissi**
by Ms. Uma Panigrahi
- 16:55 **Folk Dances by Indian Association, Geneva and Indian Association, Lausanne**
- 17:25 **Presentation by Enterprise Bot**
Indo-Swiss IT company
- 17:30 **Presentation by SONECT**
Indo-Swiss IT company
- 17:35 **Fusion Dance**
by Ukrainian group Laxmi Samarpana
- 17:45 **Short Documentary Film**
- 17:50 **Classical Dance Kathak**
by Ms. Amika Kushwaha
- 18:00 **Tabla recital**
by Ustad Cassius Khan
- 18:20 **Vote of Thanks**
- Reception and Light Refreshments**

*The event will be Webcast live @ <https://www.facebook.com/IndiaUNGeneva>
Photo ID required for entry*



NAMASTE GENEVA
From the Himalayas to the Alps
A Celebration of Indian Culture



Dr. Kishore Sandu

Dr Kishore Sandu is the Head of the Airway Sector - a quaternary care centre of excellence in the Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Lausanne University Hospital, Switzerland.

Following his training in India and working as an ENT staff surgeon at KEM Hospital and Seth G. S. Medical College, Mumbai, he passed the Swiss Otolaryngology licensing examinations. He had published several articles in peer-reviewed journals and has been invited to more than 100 conferences, as a principal speaker internationally.

Dr. Sandu's current research activity includes development of Bio-engineered Tracheal Graft.

Ms. Uma Panigrahi

ORISSI is an ancient classical dance form, developed in Orissa on the east coast of India. This has a very specific graceful body movement such as the "Tribhangi" and the "Chowk". Sculpturesque postures remind us of the carvings of the temple in Orissa.

Uma Panigrahi, born in New Delhi, India was trained under world renowned teachers Late Guru Kelucharan Mahapatra and Late Guru Hare Krishna Behara.

Uma has performed in La Scala Theatre in Milan, the Palais de Beaulieu in Lausanne, the BEA Expo in Bern and former Palais des Expositions in Geneva. Uma has also appeared in Swiss, French and Italian Televisions.





Marathi Folk dance - Aika Dajiba

by Young Girls,
Geneva

Participants Srijanani Thandaveswaran,
Srinidhi Thandaveswaran, Nichelle Sequeira,
Bianca Sequeira, Mira Mamtara and Jia
Mamtora

Choreographed Mrs. Sujatha Ventakesh

This is a song based on the Marathi tradition of the Lavani Dance that women perform during festivals. Lavani is a combination of traditional song and dance which is performed to the strong rhythmic beats of the Dholaki (percussion instrument). The word Lavani originated from 'Lavanya' meaning beauty. The Lavani songs are mostly erotic in sentiment and dialogues tend to be pungent in socio-political satire. This dance is performed by women who dress themselves in long 9 yard sarees. Aika Dajiba is a fusion of Folk and western music. In the true Bollywood style.



Bollywood Classical Fusion

by Young Kids,
Geneva

Participants Hasini Natarajan, Jia Mamtara,
Krisha Desai, Riya Wadhwa, Samiha Reddy
Konuganti, Stuti Pujari, Sunishka Basu Mallick

Conceptualized and Choreographed Sumana
Majumder

One of the unique attributes are the Colourful costumes which are made by girls from rural Kanpur trained under the program of the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna and are designed and coordinated by Sonal Pujari. Jewellery and make up is by Krithika Natrajan.

Dance is the most beautiful form of expression of human feeling. To live is to dance and to dance is to live. It does not matter if we like jazz or waltz, ballet or kathak. What matters is the heart that loves to dance.

So hold your breath for a mesmerizing performance by the youngest dancers of this event. It is a fusion where east meets the west and elements of different dance forms like Bharatnatyam, Kathak and Ballet merge themselves in to poppy numbers.

It will start with a Devi dance saluting the women power.



Rajasthani Folk Dance

Participants Sabita Tripathy, Sonal Pendharkar Kulkarni, Nimmi Kothari, Roli Misra, Shivani Raghav, Shalini Sunil

Choreographed Nach DilSe Team

Nach DilSe is an Indian Dance Group formed by passionate working mothers from Lausanne who believe in celebrating life through dance and music.

Nach DilSe is presenting two folk dance forms Kalbelia and Garba/dandiya from the states of Rajasthan and Gujarat. Kalbelia is one of the many folk dances from the state of Rajasthan. It is originally performed by both men and women of the Kalbelia community to celebrate joyful moments and is an integral part of their life. Gujarati Raas dandiya and garba are the folk dances from Gujarat that are performed by entire families during the Navaratri festival and on joyful occasions.

These dances are recognized by specific dance moves, colorful dresses and have stories narrated through the lyrics.



Enterprise Bot Conversational Artificial Intelligence

Pranay Jain CE, Co-founder and Ravina Mutha, COO/CMO/Head of Corporate Development and Co-founder

Enterprise Bot will be showcasing the future of banking through chatbots. Using their platform they are making it easy for any enterprise to go create their own smart AI agent for customer support. Enterprise bot was co-founded by Pranay Jain, Ravina Mutha and Sandeep Jayasankar in the endeavour to help businesses provide customers 24 x 7 customer support with greater customer satisfaction at a fraction of today's cost using AI. They have already implemented their solution with companies like Generali, PWC, SIX, Afterpay and many more. Additional information about the company is available: <https://www.enterprisebot.co/>

Pranay Jain: CEO and Co-Founder. Previously CEO at Mike Messenger, Director & CFO at KUL, Winner of US Federal Reserve Challenge. Pranay excels at building bridges between technology and business.



Ravina Mutha: COO and Co-Founder. Ravina is a serial entrepreneur. She has run a couple of startups before co-founding Enterprise Bot and especially enjoys interacting with people and building a professional network.

Ravina and Pranay are both originally from India. They've started business in Switzerland after joining the accelerator programme F10, which is based in Zürich. From there, they received their first client and were able to quickly use it as a launchpad to now have a complete setup in Switzerland.



SONECT world's first Virtual ATM – Swiss made

*Sandipan Chakraborty, Founder
and CEO SONECT*

SONECT converts any shop or individual into a “Virtual ATM” reducing the high “cost of cash” via a location based on-demand service that allows its users to withdraw cash using smartphone everywhere. SONECT disrupts the ATM industry by democratising the process of cash distribution. What UBER is to Taxis, AirBnB to Hotels, SONECT is for the ATMs. Launched in Switzerland about a year ago, SONECT is already one of the top Fintech in Switzerland and has recently been recognized as the best consumer payment initiative worldwide at the prestigious banking technology awards.

Having graduated from one of the premium engineering colleges in India, Sandipan Chakraborty, had just ventured into the Indian corporate world. However, within a short span of 9 months, he was invited to work for Credit Suisse in Switzerland.

A true blue Bengali at heart, having spent almost all of his formative years in Kolkata, it was an extremely challenging decision for him to leave friends and family behind and move onto something completely new & unknown. However, the one thing that has always kept Sandipan going has been his love for exploring uncharted territories. Albeit unknown, nevertheless, the allure of a new challenge made him finally embark on a journey that, in his own words, “has been an incredible adventure!”.

12 years later, after having played multiple leadership roles in Credit Suisse within the payment, core-banking and banking regulations areas, a new opportunity beckoned and yet again, Sandipan grabbed it with all his might. He decided to quit his job, staking all he ever had and founded his own company, SONECT.





Amika Kushwaha 'Poetry in Motion'

The award winning Amika Kushwaha is a professional dancer, choreographer and instructor of Kathak, one of India's classical dance forms. She has performed and collaborated in notable festivals such as the Mushtari Begum Festival, Namaste Geneva, Next Step Dance Festival, the Indian Electronica Festival, Vancouver Island, Mission, Harrison and Vancouver Folk Music Festivals. She has choreographed Kathak to many different musical genres, and performs with ease while interfacing with dancers from a variety of other dance forms, all while staying true to the art of Kathak. Her true abilities, however, shine with her explosive Kathak solo performances, taking the audience on a spell-bound journey of interwoven stories, lighting

speed pirouettes, thunderous footwork, and her uncanny intuition is heightened when with her accompanying musicians. Amika is from Saskatoon, SK, Canada and has studied Kathak under renowned instructors at the Shri Ram Bharatiya Kala Kendra (New Delhi, India). Over the years, she has refined her technique through intense study with global dance masters that dominate today's Kathak community.

Amika is also a well-synchronized and brilliant Harmonium (Indian reed organ) player, and has accompanied a number of great musicians including the Khalifa of the Delhi Gharana of vocal, Ustad Iqbal Ahmed Khan. Her Harmonium expertise, with soul stirring playing with warm chords and precise following of vocal styles is well captured in Cassius Khan's album "Mushtari: a live concert", which was nominated for the 2011 WCMA (Western Canadian Music Awards).

In addition to dancing and performing music, Kushwaha holds an M.Sc. in Chemical Engineering, has appeared in a Television Ad for Nanak Foods and is a sought after Kathak instructor and dance adjudicator in Western Canada. She is married to Ghazal/Tabla artist Cassius Khan, and together they are the founders and directors of the Mushtari Begum Festival of Indian Classical Music and Dance, held in New Westminster, BC, Canada, since 2012. Amika continues to teach and reside in New Westminster, BC Canada.

Cassius Khan The Ghazal/ Tabla Wizard

The globally renowned Cassius Khan is a refined vocalist specializing in Ghazal and Thumris, as well as an explosive Tabla exponent. Traditional Ghazal singers are known to play a the Harmomium and are traditionally accompany by another individual on Tabla. But Cassius has flipped the equation to what is now his trademark style which is to sing and play Tabla himself at the same time. Cassius has mastered this extremely difficult task and has been recognized by key Indian Classical grand master musicians and vocalist to be the only professional musician to present this combination with full justification and was honoured with the title of "Ustad" in 2016. He is the senior Tabla disciple of Ustad Rukhsar Ali of the Delhi Gharana and the Late Malika-e-Ghazal Mushtari Begum, both of whom taught Cassius in Canada through the traditional guru-student system.

A charismatic and witty personality both on and off stage, Cassius has been performing for over 30 years. He has performed in Folk Music festivals around the world since a young age, and has collaborated with many critically acclaimed musicians in a wide variety of musical genres ranging from Indian classical to Jazz, Blues, Electronica, and even Heavy

Metal. He has also appeared in a Television Ad for Nanak Foods and also hosts "The Cassius Khan Show - Connecting Classical Music to Your Hearts" on DreamZZ Radio in Vancouver, Canada. His album "Mushtari: a live concert" was nominated for the 2011 Western Canadian Music Awards in the category of 'World Album of the Year'. Among his many notable awards and recognitions, Cassius and his wife, Kathak dancer Amika Kushwaha, are the proud founders and directors of the Mushtari Begum Festival (MBF) of Indian Classical Music and Dance, held annually during the end of September in New Westminster since 2012.





॥ **ओलकारा** ॥
School of Indian Dance

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**Tech
Mahindra**