



session contains a key message that teaches children important life skills around education, gender and health. This is what the Focus India Delegation could experience at first hand. Arriving by bus at one of the many slums in Mumbai the Delegation met a mentor from **Magic Bus** who is responsible for the children. Two of the Delegation had the opportunity to prepare various games beforehand. Around 40 children from the age of 11 to 15 arrived ready to have some fun with the Focus India Delegates. Already during the disseminating the excitement of the children was noticeable, while some were rather shy others would ask questions or show some special handshakes. There were 4 games to play, relay race, chasey, a game with a hula hoop and one with collecting objects in different colours. From time to time you could see that the diffidence vanished whereby joy and a lot of laughter appeared instead. At the end of this exhausting and extremely hot play day, the mentors showed their methods how they are teaching the children by dancing or playing games. The topic on this day was germs and the importance of hygiene was represented with a "shower-dance". With many special handshakes the delegation said goodbye to the children and hoped that these kids can make their way from childhood to livelihood. ● AH & CH



Photo: Reality Tours & Travel

AADHAAR – DIGITAL INDIA IS OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED!



● **Digital India – A very familiar topic to the delegates of Focus India 2017. During the preparatory seminar in February, the delegation had a first insight in on the topic through the Indian Ambassador to Switzerland Ms Smita Purushottam.**

One part of the Digital India program is Aadhaar, a twelve-digit ID number based on biometric and demographic data by Indian residents. It is the world's biggest ID database, as according to Mr Nakul Saxena it is globally the only governmental application that has 1 billion users. The system of Aadhaar is a huge improvement and an enormous step forward for the society. Thanks to Aadhaar and with the help of a Smartphone, procedures such as applying for a loan or opening a bank account can now be done within minutes. This is especially a great contribution to the wellbeing of the low-income population by removing the need to get their loan from a broker requiring an interest of 6%-8%

or to residents in the rural area since they no longer have to physically go to a bank.

The enthusiasm of the delegation to this impressive and exceptional initiative was demonstrated as question after question was asked and properly answered.

As Swiss delegates, we were preconditioned by topics such as privacy and data security, as this is a huge topic back home. However, the Indians confess that the system might have its lacks, but the government is constantly working on them and, in addition, there is only one safe location administered by the government itself. Therefore, these doubts could be swept away. In the next five years India will go from a data poor to a data rich country. ● AH & CH