

Press Release

Visit of Shri Sunil Barthwal, Commerce Secretary, Department of Commerce, Government of India, to the Republic of Croatia (April 22-23, 2025)

Shri Sunil Barthwal, Commerce Secretary, paid an official visit to the Republic of Croatia on 22–23 April 2025.

2. During the visit, Commerce Secretary held bilateral talks with Mr. Zdenko LuciĆ, State Secretary for Foreign Trade and Development, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs. The discussions focused on taking forward the EU-India FTA and strengthening bilateral trade relations. Commerce Secretary mentioned about the visit of EU President and 27 Commissioners to India as the first visit of the College of Commissioners outside the European continent since the start of their new mandate and also the first such visit in the history of India-EU bilateral ties. Commerce Secretary mentioned about the areas of collaboration between the two countries like Railways, Global Capability Centers, Electric Vehicles, IT etc. Croatian side apprised about their interest of investment in Defence sector (about flagship products of India), solar cells production, food processing technology, Automobiles, knowledge sharing amongst other sectors.

3. In the meeting of Commerce Secretary with Mr. Ivo MilatiĆ, State Secretary, Ministry of Economy, discussion was focused on promoting investment flows, and enhancing cooperation across key sectors including Healthcare, Education, Tourism, Entertainment (mentioned about WAVES summit), Supply-Chain integration, Logistics, Transports, Pharmaceuticals, Digital Technology, Renewable Energy and Manufacturing. For the 3rd Session of Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation which is due, both sides exchanged their views on improving the work of the commission with more frequent meetings and directly connecting the entrepreneurs of both the countries for a stronger and faster progress.

4. The Commerce Secretary also participated in a business interaction event “Exploring Economic Cooperation Opportunities between India and Croatia” organized by the Croatian Chamber of Economy (CCE), where he met with the heads of various industry associations and leading Croatian business representatives. A presentation on the Croatian Economy, the trade and investment relations between India and Croatia and Industries potential on key sectors of mutual interest was shown. The event provided a platform to explore opportunities for collaboration, address trade facilitation measures, and promote mutual business interests. Successful business cases of Croatian Companies in the Indian Market were also presented.

5. The visit underlines India’s continued engagement with the Central European region and highlights the mutual interest in expanding commercial partnerships between Indian and Croatian enterprises. The Embassy of India extends its appreciation to the Government of Croatia and the Croatian Chamber of Economy for the warm hospitality and productive engagements during the visit.

Zagreb

April 24, 2025

