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India-EU Leaders Meeting

Government of Croatia message on India-EU Leaders Meeting

← Tweet



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At the EU-India Summit, we expressed solidarity with India in the context of the fight against the consequences of # COVID19 . We are building a strategic partnership with India on strengthening economic cooperation, jointly combating climate change, the digital transition and global security.



Source: Twitter

At the invitation of the President of the European Council Mr. Charles Michel, Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi participated in the India-EU Leaders' Meeting today. The meeting was held in a hybrid format with the participation of leaders of all the 27 EU Member States as well as the President of the European Council and the European Commission. This is the first time that the EU hosted a meeting with India in the EU+27 format. The meeting was the initiative of the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union. During the meeting, the leaders expressed their desire to further strengthen the India-EU Strategic Partnership based on a shared commitment to democracy, fundamental freedoms, rule of law and multilateralism. They exchanged views on three key thematic areas: i) foreign policy and security; ii) COVID-19, climate and environment; and iii) trade, connectivity and technology. They discussed forging closer cooperation on combating the COVID-19 pandemic and economic recovery, tackling climate change, and reforming multilateral institutions. India appreciated the prompt assistance provided by the EU and its member states to combat its second COVID-19 wave. **The leaders welcomed the decision to resume negotiations for balanced and comprehensive free trade and investment agreements.** Negotiations on both the Trade and Investment Agreements will be pursued on parallel tracks with an intention to achieve early conclusion of both agreements together. This is a major outcome which will enable the two sides to realise the full potential of the economic partnership. **India and the EU also announced dedicated dialogues on WTO issues, regulatory cooperation, market access issues and supply chain resilience, demonstrating the desire to deepen and further diversify economic engagement.** India and the EU launched an ambitious and comprehensive 'Connectivity Partnership' which is focused on enhancing digital, energy, transport and people-to-people connectivity. The Partnership is based on the shared principles of social, economic, fiscal, climate and environmental sustainability, and respect for international law and commitments. The Partnership will catalyse private and public financing for connectivity projects. It will also foster new synergies for supporting connectivity initiatives in third countries, including in the Indo-Pacific.

Source: Press Information Bureau: May 10, 2021

News from India

Indians in Singapore's List of Forbes 30 under 30

The Forbes 2021 Asia list of 30 under 30, written by Mr. Lee Kah Whye, includes 76 Indians. These young men and women under the age of 30 are regarded as having the most innovative and courageous minds in their respective fields, and they are making a difference in business and society. This Asian list, which has been published annually for the last six years, catalogues the 30 entrepreneurial individuals or groups in ten categories who are industry trailblazers. Social impact, the arts, entertainment, and sports, finance and venture capital, healthcare and science, and consumer technology are among these categories.

Reliance Jio joins global consortium to build undersea cable network

Reliance Jio announced plans to construct the largest international submarine cable system centred on India with global partners and submarine cable supplier Subcom to cater to increased data demand. The submarine cable networks are used to connect several countries for flow of internet and telecom services. The two submarine cable systems which the company plans to deploy will connect India with Asia Pacific markets through Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia and the other one with Italy, middle and north Africa region.

Google, Reliance Jio working closely to launch affordable smartphone in India: Sundar Pichai

According to Google CEO, Mr. Sundar Pichai, Google and Reliance Jio partnered to develop affordable smartphones in India and the development is going at a rapid pace. In 2020, both the company collaborated for a commercial agreement to bring affordable smartphone to citizens and meet the rising demand for smart phone and internet connectivity among large population. Google while signing the contract also acquired ~ 7.7% stake in Reliance Jio for Rs. 33,737 crore (US\$ 4.64 billion).

Government sees better fiscal numbers in FY21 than budgeted

The finance ministry believes India's fiscal deficit for FY21 may not be as low as budgeted. 9.5% of GDP, with both revenue and expenditure is expected to be higher than anticipated. The central government's fiscal position has improved in the second half of FY21 due to a revival in economic activities. The provisional figures for indirect tax collections for FY21 show that net revenue collections are Rs. 10.71 trillion, 108.2% of the revised estimates (RE) and have registered a growth of 12.3% over the preceding year. GST collections of Centre during FY21 stand at Rs. 5.48 trillion as compared with Rs. 5.99 trillion in FY20—106% of RE, though 8% lower than the last year's collection. In the second half of FY21, GST collections registered a good growth and collections exceeded Rs. 1 trillion in each of the six months owing to economic recovery during this period. The provisional figures of net direct tax collections for FY21 are at Rs. 9.45 trillion, 104.5% of the RE. Fiscal deficit in the first 11 months of FY21 stood at 76% of the RE, according to data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA).

India attracted highest ever total FDI inflow of US\$ 81.72 billion during 2020-21, 10% more than the last financial year

Measures taken by the Government on the fronts of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy reforms, investment facilitation and ease of doing business have resulted in increased FDI inflows into the country. The following link shows trends in India's Foreign Direct Investment are an endorsement of its status as a preferred investment destination amongst global investors. *LINK:* <https://bit.ly/3vnqDmb>



Innovation in the times of COVID-19 in India

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has recently decided to expand the scope of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to include funds spent on COVID-19 related activities as CSR. The MCA has also expanded the scope of CSR with a view to spur the R & D and innovation ecosystem in the country. In this regard, the Social Impact Team at Invest India has created a repository of technologies from technology incubators focused on COVID-19 intervention that can be supported by CSR spending.

The technologies that are connected with COVID-19, please find them below:

Category	Name of the Innovation	Brief Description	Incubator Name and location
Critical Care Equipment	Combat Robotics	Ventsa (Respiratory Aid) that has 70% features of a full-fledged ventilator. It can be used in a car, in an ambulance or in an office in the covid centres.	Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE), IIT Bombay, Maharashtra
	Oxyheal Pvt. Ltd.	Oxygen concentrators that use Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy to treat Chronic Wounds, which are wounds that do not heal over a long period of time. The device is portable and significantly easier to use and cheaper for the end-user in comparison to presently existing technologies.	TBIKEC, Kongu Engineering College, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka
	EduHex Technologies Pvt Ltd (CPAP)	The CPAP supports patients with breathing difficulties. It works by pushing an air-oxygen mix into the mouth and nose at a continuous pressure, keeping airways open and increasing the amount of oxygen entering the blood stream.	AIC Incubation Centre - IIIT Kottayam, Kerala
	Nocca Robotics	Ventilator will be permanently connected to a mobile phone which will be used to control the device and display critical information.	IIT Kanpur (virtually incubated), Maharashtra
	3D printed splitter	A splitter is a unique ventilator expansion device that allows a single ventilator to support up to two or four patients during a time of acute equipment shortage. It is specifically designed to bypass ventilator deficiency. Produced using 3D printing the device is developed with material already used in the existing medical devices and produced at minimum cost.	The International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Technology(iCreate), Ahmedabad, Karnataka
	Venturi-valve respirator	The venturi valve is an airflow control device. It does so by varying its annular orifice to modulate the flow of air. The cone is situated on an actuated shaft, which enables flow control through the full range (0%-100%) of the valve. Valve uses the venturi effect to generate under pressure in a tube consisting of three parts - a convergent section (nozzle), followed by a constant section (throat), ending in a gradual expansion (diffuser).	The International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Technology(iCreate), Ahmedabad, Karnataka
	3D printed splitter	A splitter is a unique ventilator expansion device that allows a single ventilator to support up to two or four patients during a time of acute equipment shortage. It is specifically designed to bypass ventilator deficiency. Produced using 3D printing the device is developed with material already used in the existing medical devices and produced at minimum cost. The splitter is available either in 1 x2 or 1 x 4 model.	The International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Technology(iCreate), Ahmedabad, Karnataka

Hospital Augmentation	LimelightIT	Device that can be easily plug into the oxygen supply lines of hospitals to make monitoring, audits, and leakage alerts completely automated with an easy-to-use dashboard.	The International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Technology(iCreate), Ahmedabad, Gujarat
	Evelabs Wireless Infusion Monitoring System	Product dripo is a wireless infusion monitor that can be clamped to an IV set to monitor drip rates. It acts as an intelligent bystander and sends information and alerts on the status of drip to nursing stations enabling nurses to monitor IV drips easily maintaining safety and efficacy.	Maker Village, Kochin, Kerala
	Cloudphysician Healthcare	It is a tele-ICU platform, RADAR, provides ICU expertise to hospitals that do not have 24/7 access to ICU specialist doctors	Cisco LaunchPad, Karnataka
	Teslon Technology Pvt. Ltd	Careation' is a state of the art remote healthcare delivery platform that enables patient monitoring and consultations from home, clinic or ICUs.	Cisco LaunchPad, Karnataka
	zBliss Technologies Pvt Ltd	Remote ICU Monitoring using IoT, Cloud, and AI Technologies. Auto capture of live data from Ventilators, patient monitors, and laboratory results.	Incubation Cell, IIT Madras, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka
	Cardea Labs	ATOM ECG is a medical grade 12 lead ECG on mobile phone.	GINSERV, Bengaluru, Karnataka
Protective Equipment	OzGen18 (Ozone Disinfectant)	A third generation dielectric barrier discharge technology which can disinfect bacteria, viruses, fungi and molds on the produce & meat by discharging ozone on the surface.	Technology Business Incubator-Agribusiness Incubation Society(ABIS), Tamil Nadu
Support	Genexis Biotech Pvt. Ltd.	GenVT Viral Transport Medium- A specially designed medium for transportation, storage and analysis of viral sample. It is designed for maintaining viability and virulence of samples.	Savli Technology & Business Incubator (STBI) Dept. of Science & Technology, Govt. of Gujarat
	Incredible Devices Pvt. Ltd.	ARS (Advanced Reprocessing System) is a revolutionary device, with patented technology, which safely reprocesses medical devices essential in the treatment of patients affected by COVID-19 and ensures doctor & patient safety. Fully automated system, no human intervention, reduces hospital acquired infection.	Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre, IIT Kanpur Uttar Pradesh
	Blackfrog Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	Emvólio is a portable & battery-operated medical-grade refrigeration system. Precise 2-8 deg C platform for last-mile transport of COVID-19 specimen, vaccines, etc.	MUTBI, Manipal (Incubated) & Venture Centre, Pune (Associate Incubatee), Karnataka

Source: <https://www.investindia.gov.in/bip/resources/innovations-against-covid-19>

Defence and Health Ministers launch DRDO's indigenously developed anti-Covid '2DG' drug



The Defense Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the nation's premier institution under the union ministry of Defence, tasked with spearheading defence research and innovation has yet again proved itself to be a crucial part in India's Covid-19 challenge. We are all aware of the devastating impact of the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic in India in terms of overwhelming the healthcare system while shocking the entire nation with its ferocity. As a consequence, help and support have come in from all sides, both domestically and globally to help Indians put up a strong fight against this contagious infection. Images and stories of numerous countries, Indian diaspora, grassroots organizations, NGOs and individuals coming to each other's rescue, have been glimmers of hope and have reassured us all of the strength of collective efforts in these tough times. Domestically too, India has mobilized its entire resources and strength, including the entire government machinery, to address the challenges posed by the pandemic. As one of the foremost institutions of the Indian government, the scientists at DRDO have been at the centerstage of setting up temporary and permanent hospitals, Covid care centres and enhancing healthcare infrastructural capacities across the country.

Marking another major feat in its efforts against the coronavirus, the DRDO recently developed an oral anti-Covid drug, 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2DG) in a collaborative effort of Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS) and Dr. Reddy's Laboratories (DRL) based in Hyderabad. The drug was approved earlier this month by the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) for emergency use as an adjunct therapy to treat moderate to severe patients affected by Covid-19. To expedite public accessibility of this potentially transformative medicine, the Union Defence and Health Ministers officially launched the first batch of this drug on 17th May 2021 while thanking and commending the efforts of the scientific community, particularly at DRDO in making this possible within a short span of time. The medicine has been launched as a sachet in a powdered form and is to be administered to the patient orally by dissolving it with water.

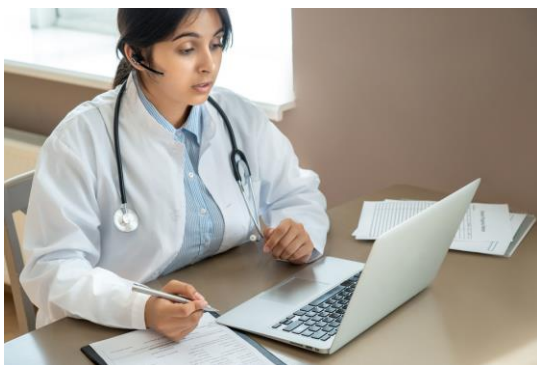
As per the union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW), during its clinical trials, the drug has demonstrated a reduced supplemental oxygen dependence and an accelerated recovery process for affected patients. It has also been noted by the Ministry that on many parameters, patients administered the 2DG drug recovered faster and showed higher levels of symptomatic cure than the 'Standard of Care' (SoC) being followed currently. This is quite significant considering the huge numbers of severe Covid-19 patients requiring medical oxygen and long hospital stays during this ongoing wave.

Source: <https://bit.ly/3fm8rnd>

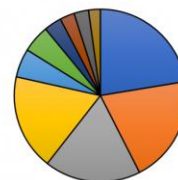
TELEMEDICINE

eSanjeevani : Bridging the resource gap in healthcare

Written by Remya Lakshmanan, Principal Investment Specialist



E-Sanjeevani Top 10 Performing States



Tamil Nadu	Karnataka	Uttar Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh
Madhya Pradesh	Gujarat	Bihar	Kerala
Maharashtra	Uttarakhand		

Digitisation has progressed its way towards strengthening many sectors of our economy – taking services such as healthcare, education, and finance to the citizens in need. Perhaps one of the critical and note-worthy ones of this decade is eSanjeevani – a government run telemedicine platform. The national telemedicine service initiated by the Health Ministry has come to the aid of many suffering patients unable to visit doctors due to lockdown restrictions and transforming healthcare reaching citizens in the remotest of locations. In just over a year, the eSanjeevani telemedicine service has clocked over 50 lakh teleconsultations and caters to at least 40,000 patients daily. Even though e-Sanjeevani was originally built to provide non-covid health care services, it swiftly transformed into a platform of great potential during this time of crisis. The states were able to quickly design processes and workflows to utilise the platform for delivering health services related to COVID-19.

The platform has enabled two types of telemedicine services for the public - eSanjeevani AB-HWC, a hub and spoke model rolled out in November 2019 under the Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centre (AB-HWC). The program connects HWCs to primary healthcare centres like district hospitals and medical colleges, which typically cater for villages and are usually staffed with mainly health workers. So far, the program is operational in over 18,000 health and wellness centres across 22 states and has set an ambitious target of onboarding 1,55,000 HWCs by 2022. While the revamped version of the above model Patient-to-Doctor (eSanjeevani OPD) teleconsultations provide outpatient services to citizens in the confines of their homes. The program has been rolled out in 28 states and UTs and enrolled over 350 OPDs since its inception during the first lockdown, 300 of which are specialised ones and serving over 30,00,000 patients free of cost.

Many states were quick to adopt and have benefitted widely from the platform. States like Tamil Nadu have shown massive traction, recording over 10,00,000 consultations, followed by several others like Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh, who have adopted the program. Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) in Mohali, the developers of eSanjeevani are working towards adding innovative features in eSanjeevani OPD, and one such is that it will enable the rollout of National OPDs on the platform. These National OPDs will allow doctors to offer remote health services to patients in any part of the country. The new feature will help distribute resources more evenly and address some of the challenges of the overstressed healthcare system. States have even set up OPDs for monitoring and management of COVID-19 home quarantined patients. The more recent step of including retired Armed Forces Medical doctors to eSanjeevani OPD to offer online consultation is another digital health effort to mitigate the stress on the system. The platform has allowed doctors to identify and attend to patients in the hinterland while ensuring that the patients with milder ailments do not overcrowd the primary healthcare centres.

With the right execution and continuous improvements to match the patients' needs, this citizen-friendly platform could prove to be a leading telemedicine network model. The pandemic has exposed many flaws of our healthcare system and brought to the forefront the critical need for cutting-edge technology and innovation in the areas of public health, medicine, and wellness. With digital ushering in a significant transformation in the health space, India hopes to fix some of the big issues of delivering better patient care and improving the low doctor-patient ratio.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA



Since United Nations General Assembly declared International Day of Yoga in 2014, it has been celebrated from 21 of June 2015 worldwide. There is a significance to why this particular date was suggested by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It is the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere - the summer solstice. From the yogic perspective the summer solstice marks the transition to *Dakshinayana* – a six-month period between summer solstice and winter solstice, when the Sun travels towards the south. *Dakshinayana* is significant in the life of anyone who is doing any kind of yoga. Particularly for those of us who are living in the northern hemisphere, as the planet is moving in an anticlockwise direction. This produces a certain impact on the human physiology. It can regulate circadian rhythm (normalizes sleep cycles), as well as improves the ability to produce melatonin (sleep hormone), also, more daylight means more D vitamin intake (which boosts energy levels). The word 'yoga' is derived from Sanskrit and means to join or to unite, symbolizing the union of a person's body and consciousness. Yoga is an ancient physical, mental and spiritual practice that originated in India. According to its famous practitioner BKS Iyengar, "Yoga cultivates the ways of maintaining a balanced attitude in day-to-day life and endows skill in the performance of one's actions." As a holistic approach, Yoga targets all the different systems of the body and mind. It is said that the *asanas* make the body strong and flexible, as health improves; the mind too is renewed with confidence. This year more than 30 cities in Croatia will join the worldwide celebration of International Day of Yoga throughout June. Here is the table of confirmed dates and locations:

Date and Time	City and Location
6 th of June, 10:30	Zagreb, Bundek Lake, stage on the lake (link)
6 th of June, 10:00	Sumartin (playground), Brač
11 th of June, 19:15	Suhopolje, Square sv. Terezije
11 th of June, 18:00 21 th of June-25 th June, 19:15-20:15	Virovitica, Antun Mihanović 3 street Virovitica, Yoga place studio Virovitica
12 th of June, 9:00	Slatina, Lake Javorica, Voćinska street
12 th of June, 17:00	Križevci, square
18 th of June, 17:00, TBC	Osijek, Šetalište kardinala Franje Šepera 4
18 th of June, 18:00	Bjelovar, Eugen Kvaternik square
19 th of June, TBC	Dubrovnik, Lokrum Island
19 th of June, 19:00	Labin, at the peace tree.behind Erste Bank
20 th of June, 10.00	Umag, beach Africa
20 th of June, 19.00	Rovinj, Porton Biondi Beach
20 th of June, 7:00	Korčula, Pomirenja square
20 th of June, TBC	Rab
20 th of June, 9:30	Split, riva
20 th of June, 10:00	Novigradska biskupija park
20 th of June, 12:00	Krk, Punat, Zahvalnosti square
21 st of June, 7:30	Rijeka, TBC
21 st of June	Njivice, Krk
21 st of June, 18:30-20:30	Varaždin, green area by "Varaždin" sport hall (Graberje)
21 st of June, 19:00	Makarska, public beach
22 nd of June, 9:00	Hvar, Sunčani Hvar, hotel Amfora
24 th June, 18:00	Online session: Isha Foundation

When doors closed on Indian shooters, a grateful Croatian rolled out red carpet



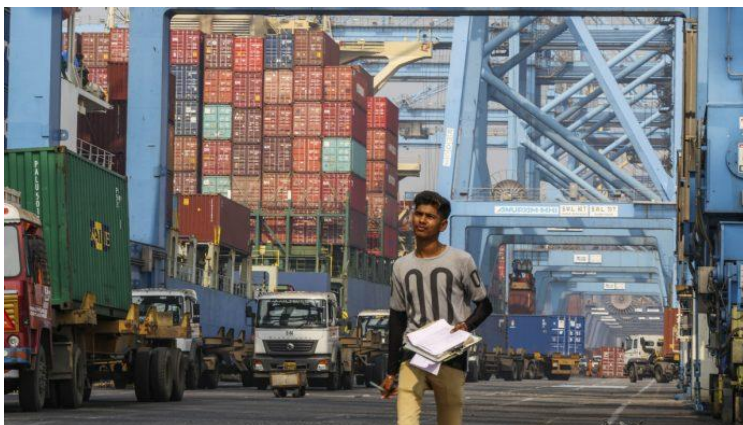
Petar Gorsa was at a hospital in Zagreb, by the bedside of his wife. They had just become parents of a baby boy. Hours later, the world No.3 shooter was at the city's airport to welcome India's Olympic shooting team. Gorsa and the vice president of Zagreb Shooting Federation, Antun Sudar, escorted the Indian team to its hotel. They then carried the team's firearms and ammunition to the city's shooting range and deposited them at the armoury as per the country's safety norms. "By the time I reached home and slept, it was 5 am," Gorsa says. In March, when he travelled to New Delhi for the World Cup, his woes began from the moment he landed at the airport. First, it took him almost six hours to get a clearance from the customs for his equipment, including the weapons. Upon reaching the hotel, he noticed the promised bio-bubble for shooters was already compromised and to make matters worse, he tested positive for Covid-19 on the eve of his event. The rifle shooter had to withdraw from the competition and was admitted to a hospital, where a series of 'misunderstandings' unfolded. Ultimately, he says Olympian Ronjan Singh Sodhi and president of the National Rifle Association of India, Raninder Singh, came to his rescue. They spoke to the hospital authorities and constantly checked on him. After he was discharged, Gorsa spent his remaining days in isolation at Raninder's residence. "When I was Covid positive, they treated me like family. Mr Raninder and my friend Ronjan gave me the best possible care and made me feel protected in a very difficult situation. I was able to finish my Covid isolation under best conditions," Gorsa says. So when the opportunity presented to reciprocate the gesture, Gorsa was hands-on. For a week, Gorsa put his training on hold to help a team, which includes some of his biggest competitors. As the pandemic's second wave swept across India, triggering a crisis at various levels, the country's Olympic-bound athletes were staring at problems of their own. The shooters were confined to their homes and preparation for the Tokyo Olympics came to an abrupt halt. One after the other countries closed doors on travelers from India. They'd almost resigned to their fate and considered assembling in New Delhi, where they would train in 40 degree Centigrade-plus temperatures in May and June. Croatia was one of the options but visas and paperwork were a stumbling block. Immediately, a six-member group – including Gorsa, Sudar and Zagreb Shooting Federation's secretary Visnjica Kvesic – was formed to execute the 'operation'. Contacts were established with Croatian ministries of sport, police, foreign affairs, defence and the Croatian Olympic Committee. "Within four days, we could complete most of the formalities. It would not have been possible without the help of all these institutions. They made it possible outside the regular procedures and deadlines," Gorsa says. After completing a seven-day quarantine, the Indian shooting team will train alongside the Croatians, including Gorsa, at the range that has equipment similar to the one that will be used at the Olympics. They will also take part in two tournaments: next week's European Championship in Osijek, in the non-competitive Minimum Qualifying Score category and the hastily-arranged World Cup in the same city, three hours drive from Zagreb. The team will leave for Tokyo in July from Zagreb.

Source: <https://bit.ly/3bVV3UD>

Ambassador Srivastava met with members of the Zagreb Shooting Federation & Mr. Petar Gorsa, Croatian ace shooter. With Indian National Shooting team training in Croatia we are witnessing India - Croatian Sports cooperation adds a new theme to already strong partnership, in fields of soccer & tennis



Why Indian exports are doing well in 2nd Covid wave



A revival in global demand has seen India's exports surge in April with segments like gems and jewellery and engineering goods seeing a sharp increase during the month. A close look at trade data available with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry shows that exports in April increased not only in comparison to April 2020 — when exports had slumped due to the nationwide lockdown — but also when compared to exports in April 2019. Exporters say the surge is continuing in the first couple of weeks of May as well but lockdowns across states are now impacting manufacturing and logistics. Exports in April rose 196 per cent when compared to 2020 and by 17 per cent when compared to 2019. "Exports are growing even when compared to 2019. The trend is continuing in May as well. Indian exporters are flushed with orders and the export order booking position is looking good," said Ajai Sahai, director general and chief executive of Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO).

What is India exporting?

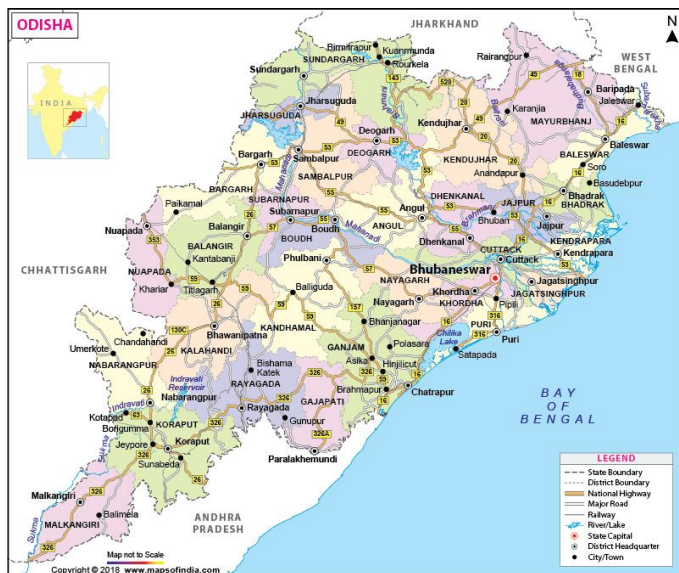
Engineering goods, constituting 26 per cent of India's total exports, grew 238 per cent over last year and 18 per cent over 2019 to \$7.9 billion (around 56,000 crore). Gems and jewellery, constituting 11 per cent of India's exports, grew 9300 per cent over last year, and 17 per cent over 2019. Drugs and pharmaceuticals, cotton yarn, fabrics and handlooms, electronic goods, plastics and rice are some of the other export items that are growing in comparison to last year. With the pace of vaccinations picking up in global economies, the threat of the Covid-19 pandemic has receded prompting many advanced countries to gradually open up their economies. Biswajit Dhar, a professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University, said India's export markets are reviving leading to a surge in exports. "The global economy is rebounding quickly. And this is being reflected in the growth in exports. For instance, gems and jewellery, a segment dependent on consumer demand and incomes of people, has seen a sharp increase. Similarly, the increase in engineering goods is dominated by light engineering goods like non-electrical machinery and is commensurate with global revival," Dhar said. "Lot of infrastructure investment is taking place across the world and that also explains the surge in demand for many exports," Dhar said. "The surge in exports will continue for at least the next few months. And this is good news for Indian companies as domestic demand has slumped completely. The foreign demand will come in handy and encourage firms to invest to build additional capacity. India's trade to GDP ratio has been coming down over the last few years but this trend is changing now," he added.

Source: <https://bit.ly/2SoAwBk>

Odisha - India's Best Kept Secret

FACTS

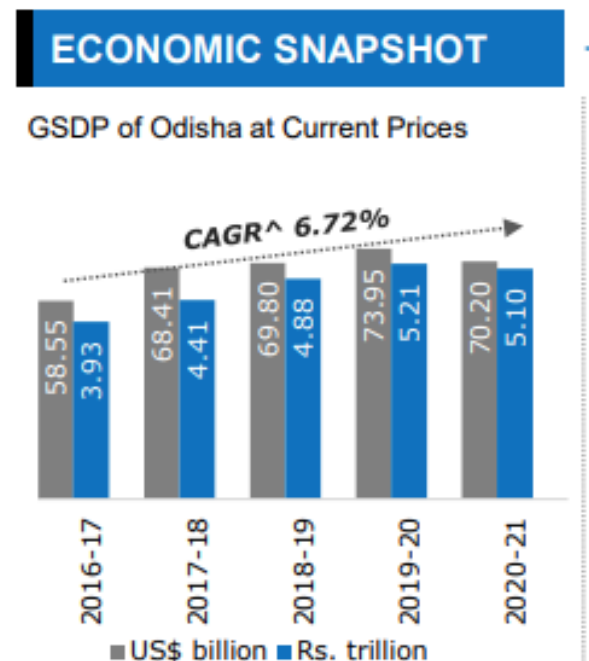
- Capital: Bhubaneswar
- Geographical Area (sq km): 155,707
- State Language: Oriya, Hindi and English
- Literacy Rate: 72.87 %
- Key Industries: Iron, steel, ferroalloy, aluminium, handloom, mining, IT and ITeS, electronics and tourism



Economy

Odisha is located in the eastern region of India. The state shares its borders with West Bengal on the north-east, Jharkhand on the north, Andhra Pradesh on the south, Chhattisgarh on the west, and the Bay of Bengal on the east. The state's economy witnessed high growth rates between 2016-17 and 2020-21, with GSDP of the state growing at a CAGR of 6.72%. Cumulative FDI inflows in the state amounted to US\$ 30.06 million between October 2019 and December 2020. Odisha has emerged as a key state regarding the mineral and metal-based industries. In 2019-20, Odisha contributed the largest share (29%) of mineral production (by value*) in India. Value of minerals produced in the state reached Rs. 22.10 billion (US\$ 305 million) in 2019-

20. It is the first state in India to have undertaken reform and restructuring initiatives in the power sector. As of February 2021, Odisha accounted for a total installed power generation capacity of 8,594.47 megawatts (MW). Odisha has a well-developed social, physical, and industrial infrastructure, and the state government has undertaken several infrastructural projects to further promote overall development. The state's infrastructure includes well-connected road and rail networks, airports, ports, power, and telecom.



GOVERNMENT VISION FOR THE STATE



Skill Development

To foster technical and vocational education and skill development programmes.



Infrastructure

To improve connectivity by increasing road and rail density and to improve passenger services.



Government Services

To enhance the use of Information Technology (IT) to ensure transparency and speed.



Industrial Development

To develop industrial parks with quality infrastructure, encourage micro-enterprises as ancillaries and pave the way for cost and technology orientation by encouraging competition.

The Taste of Odisha

Odisha cuisine is very simple yet delicious, prepared in little or no oil which gives out the flavours of the spices that are sparingly used themselves. The spread is vast and is very easy on the palate. Odia love food, owing the importance of it in the religious culture of the state.

Pitha -The food for the occasion Pitha is essentially cereal based steamed cake. It's the food for any occasion from the perspective of an Odia household. The dish has many variants and much sought after amongst them are Chakuli Pitha, PodaPitha, Monda, etc.



Tourism - Golden Beach, Puri, received the coveted Blue Flag certification in 2020. The prestigious Blue Flag status to beaches is granted by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), which is based in Copenhagen, Denmark. This status can only be earned when as many as 33 guidelines on cleanliness, tourist-friendly amenities and eco-friendly environment set by the FEE are met by the concerned beach.



Temples & Monuments

The historical monuments of Odisha stand testament to the glorious architectural heritage of the state. The Kalinga Architecture as it is known came into existence in the 6th century AD and continued unabated till the 16th Century AD. The Kings or Gajapati's of Kalinga irrespective of dynasty encouraged the architects to express their creativity by infusing life into stone. What makes the Kalinga Architecture so distinctive and pleasing to the eye is its, structural details, plan, elevation and skilfully crafted figurines which adorns the outer walls of the monuments. The other notable thing about the monuments of Odisha is that the architectural style wasn't rigid and throughout its history it continued to evolve incorporating new styles and aspects which added to their legend. The monuments were not just restricted to places of worship. In fact they were the epicentre of the socio- cultural activities which shaped our social customs and beliefs, which are followed even today.



Ambassador Outreaches

Ambassador Srivastava met with the former Mayor of Rijeka Mr. Vojko Obersnel & discussed cooperation opportunities with City of Rijeka & University of Rijeka in Healthcare, Tourism, Innovation, Skill Development & Culture which will create stronger ties between Croatia and India. LINK: <https://bit.ly/3ulymR7>



Ambassador Srivastava visited one of the top five Croatian pharmaceutical companies JGL d.d. & discussed the future collaboration with Indian Pharma Education Institutions and Indian biotech companies for R&D. JGL's sea water therapy products are inspired by traditional medicine systems, including from Ayurveda practices.



Ambassador Srivastava met with the President of Board of Port of Rijeka Mr. Grabovac and discussed the possibilities to strengthen the cooperation in the maritime sector between Croatia and India.



Ambassador Srivastava was interviewed by Mr. Bolković about Croatian & Indian bilateral ties & the development of B2B & P2P connections between two countries. Find out other complementarities of 2 countries which would strengthen the Innovation & Talent partnership here: <https://bit.ly/3vq7Pm8>



Ambassador visited University of Rijeka to explore with Rector Dr Prijić Samaržija opportunities for cooperation, incl. strengthening partnerships with India universities, research activities - & how UNIRI can connect with India.



**Indology department, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
University of Zagreb**

क्रोएशिया मेरा देश

क्रोएशिया मेरा देश है। यह बहुत बड़ा नहीं है, पर इसका रूप विचित्र है। इसके उत्तर में मेदवेदनिक पर्वत है। मेदवेदनिक की अनेक चोटियाँ हैं। सबसे ऊँची चोटी स्लेयेमे है। इसके दक्षिण और पश्चिम में एड्रियाटिक सागर है, और इसमें 1244 द्वीप हैं। सबसे बड़ा द्वीप कर्क है। दूसरे मशहूर द्वीप ह्वार, कोर्चुला और पग हैं। पूर्व में प्रमुख नदियाँ- सावा, द्रावा, दुनाव, कूपा, कर्क, ज़मन्य आदि हैं।

क्रोएशिया के पड़ोसी देश हैं- पश्चिम में स्लोवेनिया. उत्तर में हंगरी. पूर्व में सर्बिया और बोस्निया तथा दक्षिण में हर्ज़ेगोविना। क्रोएशिया में जंगल बहुत घने नहीं हैं। पूरे देश में एक ही रेगिस्तान है। प्रमुख धर्म ईसाई धर्म है और प्रमुख भाषा क्रोशी भाषा है। बहुत ज्यादा दूसरे धर्म या भाषाएं नहीं हैं।

सबसे ज्यादा लोग क्रोएशिया की राजधानी ज़ाग्रेब, उत्तर पूर्व में बसे शहर ओस्याक, रियेका और स्प्लिट बंदरगाह में रहते हैं। अन्य मशहूर शहर दुबरोवनिक, मकास्का, पोरेच, रोविन्य, ज़ाद्वार और शिबेनिक आदि हैं।

क्रोएशिया का राष्ट्रगान- *Ijepa naša domovino* (सुंदर देश हमारा) है। क्रोएशिया का राष्ट्रीय फूल आयरिस है।

प्रमुख त्यौहार- क्रिसमस और ईस्टर हैं।

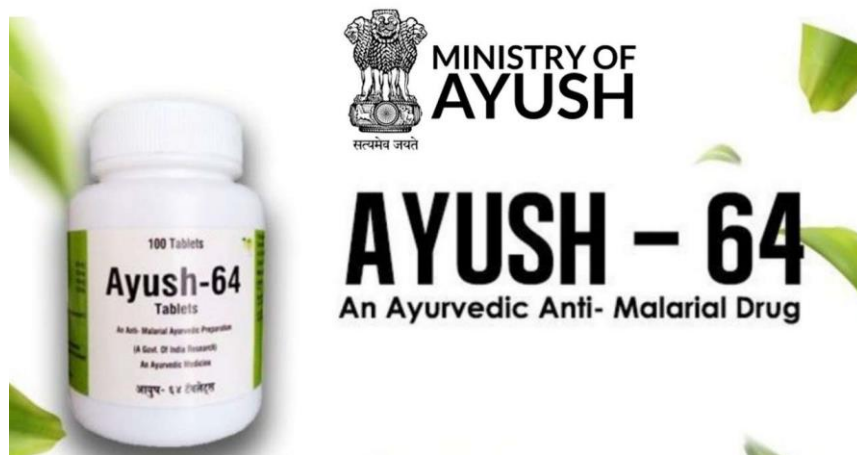
मुख्य भोजन- सारमा, वरिवो और आलू हैं।

पुरुषों का मुख्य पहनावा पेंट कमीज है। आधुनिक समय में स्त्रियों का पहनावा भी पेंट कमीज और स्कर्ट है।

क्रोएशिया के प्रसिद्ध दर्शनीय स्थल हैं- प्लित्वित्चे की झीलें, कर्क, ब्रियोनी, दुब्रोवनिक शहर आदि।

क्रोएशिया का लोकप्रिय खेल फुटबॉल है।

वेरोनिका क्रात्य -- student from the Indology department .



Described by experts as a ray of hope in the time of the pandemic, the polyherbal drug AYUSH- 64 which was originally developed in 1980 for treatment of malaria, has now been repurposed for Covid 19. The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), a research institution under the Ministry of Ayush devoted to Ayurveda, recently concluded extensive and robust clinical trials of the drug in collaboration with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and many other research organizations and medical colleges across the country. The trials led by reputed scientists of the country showed AYUSH 64 has notable antiviral, immune-modulator and antipyretic properties. It is found to be useful in the treatment of asymptomatic, mild and moderate COVID-19 infection. Consequently, the drug is now repurposed for COVID-19. What is Ayush-64

Ayush-64 is an Ayurvedic formulation, developed by the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), the apex body for research in Ayurveda under the Ministry of Ayush. Originally developed in 1980 for the management of Malaria, this drug has now been repurposed for Covid 19 as its ingredients showed notable antiviral, immune-modulator and antipyretic properties. The in-silico study done on Ayush 64 showed that 35 out of 36 of its Phyto-constituents have high binding affinity against COVID 19 virus. The formulation has also shown very promising results in Influenza like illnesses. With scientific evidence generated from 06 clinical studies across India, Ayush 64 has been identified as a potential adjunct to standard care in the management of asymptomatic, mild and moderate COVID 19 to improve the clinical recovery and quality of life.

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Who can take Ayush-64?

It can be taken by patients at any stage of the COVID-19 disease. However, its efficacy was scientifically studied in asymptomatic, mild and moderate disease without risk factors for poor outcome and those not requiring emergency interventions or hospitalization are eligible to take Ayush-64. Patients of mild to moderate COVID-19 cases showing initial symptoms like fever, malaise, body ache, nasal congestion, nasal discharge, headache, cough etc. and of asymptomatic cases of COVID-19 can start taking Ayush 64 within 7 days of diagnosis of the disease through RT-PCR for better outcome.

Sri Sri Tattva and bigbasket collaborate to Champion Health through Ayurveda (IBEF: May 11, 2021)

Sri Sri Tattva, an Indian-based health and wellness FMCG brand with a portfolio of over 550 brands, has teamed up with bigbasket, one of the India's largest online supermarket, for the #YourHealthFirst social campaign. As part of the collaboration, Ayurvedic items and lifestyle tips inspired by Sri Sri Tattva have been allowed in a dedicated section of the bigbasket mobile shopping app for Ayurveda. Through the campaign, the brand (Sri Sri Tattva) aims to provide customers with quick, effective, and useful personal wellness tips, as well as wellness inspired by Ayurveda for improved health. The brands aim to help consumers adapt to a new standard for improved mental and physical health by offering a wide variety of Ayurvedic items, such as immunity boosters and products & services that provide stress relief, diabetes treatment, and so on. Mr. Arvind Varchaswi, Managing Director, Sri Sri Tattva, said, "in the pandemic, customers became more conscious of their health and lifestyle, placing equal emphasis on their physical and mental well-being. Sri Sri Tattva intends to promote good health through Ayurveda and Siddha, both of which have deep roots in Indian culture. The partnership's goal is to bring good health to people's doorsteps." Mr. Hari Menon, Co-founder and CEO, bigbasket, said, "bigbasket has always been a customer-first company, with the mission of providing customers with the best goods and services possible. As a result, we have partnered with Sri Sri Tattva to offer their exclusive line of products to our customers, empowering them with better immunity and wellbeing through Ayurveda. We'll also be able to provide a variety of health and wellbeing items as a result of the collaboration."

Sri Sri Tattva recently listed over 140 Ayurveda and food items on bigbasket, including a line of immunity-boosting supplements that has seen a significant increase in demand. Sri Sri Tattva Kabasura Kudineer tablets, Amruth, Turmeric Plus, Shakti Drops, and Tulasi Arka and Chyawanprash are among the key items available. Customers of Bigbasket will receive exclusive discounts on all items. There will also be a segment with videos from Sri Sri Tattva's respected doctors and experts on topics like immunity, digestion, asthma, diabetes, and more.

Sri Sri Tattva was established on Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar's inspiration with the mission of promoting health and wellness. The company provides products and services in the areas of Ayurveda Medicines, Supplements, Food, Personal Care, Home Care and Hygiene, Incense and Fragrances through a multinational conglomerate. The brand (Sri Sri Tattva) brings a 360-degree approach to health and wellness, including a state-of-the-art hospital, a College of Ayurveda Science and Research, committed Doctors & Therapists, Panchakarma Wellness Centres, Spas and Clinics, Manufacturing facilities powered by technology and stringent control systems, and a rapidly expanding its global presence. The company takes an all-encompassing strategy to health and wellness. Sri Sri Tattva's manufacturing facilities have received numerous awards, including the cGMP COPP certificate, AYUSH Premium Mark Certification, ISO 22000:2008, HACCP, EU Organic, and ANMAT GMP. Bigbasket is going big in the online grocery industry, having recently reorganised its supply chains around cities to expedite the fulfilment of the majority of customer orders. The company's operations in India have grown to 30 cities, with around 15 million monthly customer orders. The uniqueness of bigbasket is its supply chain integration for fresh fruits, vegetables, and meats, as well as its popular private label labels, set it apart. Bigbasket hit a sales goal of US\$ 1 billion in 2020.

AYUSH CELL CROATIA

Embassy scheduled the 4th AYUSH Cell meeting in 2021 on the 19th May in Zagreb. Focus of the meeting was the sharing of ideas for the International Day of Yoga 2021 which will held across Croatia, 1st Yoga & Ayurveda International Conference, which is set in June 2021.



Glimpses of the 1st Open Yoga Session held at Bundek Park, organised by Embassy of India, Zagreb, with the support of the City of Zagreb, & the Zagreb Tourist Board.

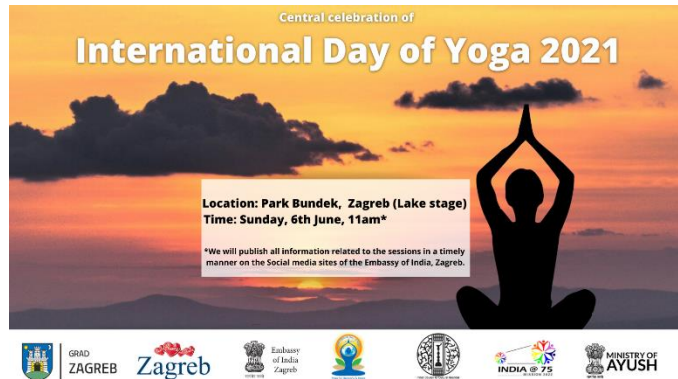


Embassy of India, Zagreb Newsletter (ISSUE NO. 5; May, 2021)

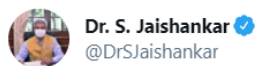
Zagreb based AYUSH Cell's online Session "Ancient Healing Secret to live 100 years" by Dr. Brincivalli (Italy), Siddha-Veda Specialist, Dr Sandya Okada (Japan) & Yogacharya emphasised on following the old & simple knowledge of Ayurveda for improving the human mind, health & immunity.



The IDY 2021 will be held on Sunday, June 6, in Park Bundek (lake stage) starting at 11 am, organized by the Embassy of India in Croatia in partnership with the City of Zagreb & Zagreb Tourist Bord. [LINK](#)



CROATIAN NATIONAL DAY



Dr. S. Jaishankar
@DrSJaishankar

Greetings to FM @grlicradman and the Government & people of Croatia on their National Day. Continuing our multifaceted cooperation.

4:52 PM · May 30, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

75 Retweets 3 Quote Tweets 737 Likes



Indian Diplomacy
@IndianDiplomacy

Warm congratulations to the Government and people of Croatia 🇭🇷 on the occasion of their National Day!

@India_Croatia



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