







Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi addresses the nation from the Red Fort on the 76th Independence Day

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi:

"One feels proud when there is freedom from dynasty and nepotism, and such results come along. My dear countrymen, there are many challenges no doubt. But if there are crores of problems before this country, then there are also crores of solutions and I have faith in 130 crore countrymen. When 130 crore countrymen take one step ahead with a set goal and the commitment to resolve. India moves 130 steps forward. We have to move forward with this capability. This is the first dawn of the 'Amrit Kaal' and we should not forget a single moment for the next 25 years. To live for the motherland each day. every moment of time and every particle of life will be our true tribute to the freedom fighters. Only then, the virtuous remembrance of all those who contributed in taking the country to this point in the last 75 years will be of use".

Watch the full speech at the following <u>LINK</u>.



Glimpses from a memorable Independence Day program at the Red Fort

During the speech, the Prime Minister highlighted 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', and said the event is an opportunity to recall the contributions made by those who dedicated their lives to the country during the last 75 years.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid out a development strategy for the next 25 years of India. The strategy, which he called 'Panchpran', includes five pledges for India's future.

PM Modi said India has to focus on five areas in the coming years. These include:

1. A developed India: The Prime Minister emphasised the need to move forward with bigger resolutions for a developed India. He said that initiatives like cleanliness campaigns, vaccination drives, electricity connection to 25 million people, stopping open defecation and focusing on renewable energy sources are being taken up to achieve this.

2. Freedom from the idea of servility: PM Modi also stressed on erasing all traces of servitude in order to change the people's mindset. According to Modi, the National Education Policy (NEP) is the way to get rid of the mentality of servility. He said, "We should be proud of every language of the country" and praised the rise of digital India. He also said start-ups are the result of the emerging power of the country.

3. Pride in heritage: In order to give solutions to the issues in the world, it is necessary to take pride in our own heritage, said the prime minister. He further said, "When we connect with our earth, only then will we fly high. Protection of the environment is hidden in our heritage."

4. Unity and solidarity: Prime Minister Modi said that unity and solidarity can be achieved by celebrating diversity. Respecting women, gender equality and respect for workers are part of celebrating diversity. He also spoke strongly against the discrimination against women and said citizens must strive to find a way out of this issue.

5. Fulfilling one's duty: As a part of the development strategy, PM Modi also emphasised the duty of the citizens towards the country. He said, "The duty of citizens paves the way for progress. This is the basic vital force." He added that it is not just the common man who must fulfill this duty but the union ministers, including the prime minister himself.

PM's Economic Advisory Council released Competitiveness Roadmap for India@100



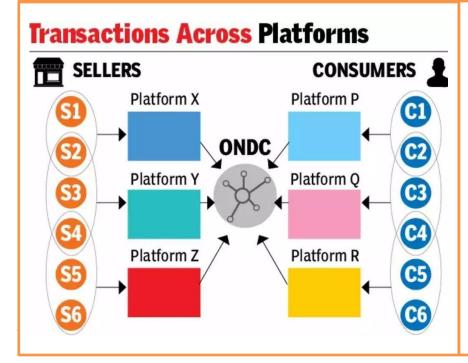
The Competitiveness Roadmap for India@100 was released by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) on the 30th of August. The roadmap, which is a part of the India Competitiveness Initiative, was released in the presence of Dr. Bibek Debroy, Chairman, EAC-PM, Sanjeev Sanyal, Member, EAC-PM, and the members of the Stakeholders Group formed as part of the initiative. The roadmap is a collaborative endeavor between the EAC-PM and The Institute for Competitiveness and is developed by Dr. Amit Kapoor, Chair, Institute for Competitiveness, Professor Michael E. Porter, and Dr. Christian Ketels of Harvard Business School. It envisions setting new guiding principles for the country's growth journey over the following years and guiding different states, ministries, and partners in India's growth to develop sector-specific roadmaps for achieving targeted goals.

The Competitiveness roadmap for India@100 is based on the Competitiveness framework developed by Professor Michael E. Porter. The Competitiveness approach puts forth the idea of productivity as a driver of sustained prosperity. It emphasizes the context that a nation can provide firms with to be more productive and for individuals to be able to partake in the value generated through their productivity. Based on this approach, the India@100 roadmap guides the way for India to become a high-income country by 2047 through sector-specific and region-specific policies based on the '4 S' principles. The roadmap sets out to give new guiding principles that are based on clearly defined overall goals and the articulation of a new development approach embedded in integrating social and economic agendas. The '4 S' guiding principles redefine our approach to attaining prosperity by stressing the need for prosperity growth to be matched by social progress, to be shared across all regions within India, to be environmentally sustainable, and to be solid in the face of external shocks. By capturing these four important aspects, the '4 S' guiding principles pave the way for resilient and holistic development.

In his message, Professor Michael Porter mentioned, "The competitiveness framework underlying the roadmap offers a strategic perspective on how to translate the diagnostics on a country's competitiveness fundamentals into actionable insights. The solution does not lie in narrow interventions. What is needed to accelerate progress is a clear strategy enabling action to focus on key priority areas". Dr. Amit Kapoor shared the essence of the Competitiveness roadmap as he said, "The competitiveness approach must serve as the cornerstone of India's economic and social policy for us to be able to sustain long-term economic growth. The recommendations outlined in the roadmap factor in India's unique advantages and are based on a new set of guiding principles, policy goals, and an implementation architecture". The roadmap is a step in this direction. It offers a thorough diagnostic assessment of India's current competitiveness level, the primary challenges faced, and growth opportunities. Furthermore, setting out the pathway to becoming a high-income country, the roadmap suggests essential areas of action, including improving labor productivity and enhancing labor mobilization, boosting the creation of competitive job opportunities, and improving policy implementation through greater coordination across different ministries.

The roadmap was presented by Dr Christian Ketels, who highlighted the importance of building a complete understanding of India's strengths and its unique advantages, which can help enhance the country's overall national value proposition. He stated, "Understanding India's competitiveness challenges and opportunities also help gain insights into the challenges and opportunities that the world is facing. How India manages to address its major challenges will have a bearing on how the world tackles these challenges. India's performance matters". In the Keynote address on 'India- The Competitive Edge', Dr Bibek Debroy, Chairman, EAC-PM, mentioned, "If India's development trajectory has to emerge faster, higher, and stronger, both government policies and the enterprises and markets functioning in the environment set by the former, are of great significance". Adding emphasis to the importance of a renewed approach to development, Amitabh Kant, G20, Sherpa, stated, "In an ever-evolving global context, India is working towards presenting a sustained growth model based on ease of living for its people and ease of doing business for its industries. The emphasis is not just on attaining the ambitions set for India but also on how the country gets there. The roadmap provides directions guiding the process of attaining the set goals, and outlines the kind of principle changes required for the transformation we are working towards". The release also included a panel discussion among members of the stakeholder group constituted as part of the initiative. The panellists included Akshi Jindal, CEO, Barmalt Malting (India) Pvt. Ltd., Ashish Jhalani, MD, Square Panda, Gurcharan Das, Author, Hari Menon, Director, India Country Office, BMGF, Himanshu Jain, President, Indian Subcontinent, Diversey, Ravi Venkatesan, Chairman, Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet, Sumant Sinha, Chairman & MD, ReNew Power. The discussion brought forth valuable insights pertinent to India's future growth trajectory. The Competitiveness Roadmap for India@100 provides the basis for a renewed approach to India's growth and development strategy. Moving ahead, the focus would be on developing KPIs and roadmaps for different industries, ministries, and states of the country to shape the journey towards reaching the country's ambitions by its centennial year. The change in approach to development in different sectors and states will not only shape policy actions today but also have an impact on the design and implementation of future policies.

The Next UPI: What is India's Open Network for Digital Commerce?



ONDC, set up as a non-profit company is a network that lets sellers voluntarily display their products and services across all participating apps and platforms. Since this network uses open specifications and protocols and isn't tied down to any platform - it doesn't require buyers and sellers to use the same platform to complete a transaction. So long as the platforms are connected to this open network, buyers and sellers can transact irrespective of the applications they use. US firm Microsoft has become the first big tech company to ONDC. The software giant intends to introduce social e-commerce - group buying experience - in the Indian market, which would include a shopping app for Indian consumers along with their social circle, harnessing the ONDC network to discover the best pricing among retailers and sellers.

From the Global Media

'Unprecedented urgency' may have pushed India and the EU to revive trade talks after 9 years [<u>BBC ARTICLE</u>]



In a stunning turnaround, India and the European Union recently revived negotiations for a free trade agreement after talks halted nearly a decade ago — and observers say it could have been driven by "unprecedented urgency." The next round of India-EU FTA talks will take place in Brussels in September. 52 technical sessions covering 18 policy areas of the free trade agreement and seven sessions on investment protection and GIs were held during the first round of talks. The deal is expected to double trade between India and the EU in the next five years, from an estimated \$115 billion in 2021, according to the Economic Intelligence Unit.

India's Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and European Commission Executive Vice President Valdis Dombrovskis formally relaunched the negotiations in Brussels in June. "Both partners are now resuming the FTA talks after a gap of about nine years since the earlier negotiations were left off in 2013 due to difference in the scope and expectations from the deal," India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry said.

The deal, if concluded, would be one of the most significant trade agreements for India as the European Union is its second-largest trading partner after the U.S., according to India's commerce ministry. It could lead to multiple benefits for both sides such as greater market access for businesses, helping lower tariffs, and easing the movements of goods and people for employment purposes.

The EU, which is India's 10th largest trading partner, accounts for 2.1% of total trade in goods. Bilateral trade for services between them reached €30.4 billion (\$30.68 billion) in 2020, data from the European Commission showed. Merchandise trade between India and the EU hit an all-time high of \$116.36 billion in the financial year that ended in March — up 43.5% year-on-year, according to India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry. India's exports to the EU jumped 57% to \$65 billion for the full-year period, the ministry said.

Kashmiri Saffron: The Story of the World's Sweetest, Most Expensive Spice



Kashmiri saffron is known to provide a beautiful golden colour and pungent, aromatic flavour to food.

Amidst the towering snow-capped mountains of Pampore, Kashmir, lie fields covered in a blanket of purple crocus flowers. This is the flower that produces the precious spice known as saffron. Pampore, a small village located around 14 kilometres from the state capital, Srinagar, is known as the 'saffron capital of India', with more than 20,000 families associated with saffron cultivation.

The saffron produced in the region is of superior quality and can fetch as much as Rs 2,50,000 per kilogram in the market. The laborious task of cultivating saffron is what makes the spice so valuable.

The process begins with the villagers picking the delicate flowers and collecting them in wicker baskets. Each flower is then sorted according to its three parts — the petals, the yellow strands and the red strands. Pure saffron is derived from the red strands. More than 1,50,000 flowers are sifted and scanned for a kilogram of the crimson spice. After this, the strands are dried over a charcoal fire. Across India, this spice has many names — zafran in Urdu, kesar in Hindi, kong posh in Kashmiri and kungumapoo in Tamil. Alongside the multiple names it is known by, there are numerous accounts of how the spice came to India.

One such legend dates back to the 12th century, which says that while travelling through the country, two Sufi saints presented a local chieftain with a saffron bulb after he cured them of an illness. Another claims that the Persians brought it to the country from Iran in 500 B.C during their trades. A third dates the spice back to the Mughal Empire, and says the spice was used extensively in cooking.

Source: thebetterindia.com

75th Anniversary of Independence Day

As we celebrate the 75th Anniversary of India's Independence Day, let us rededicate our patriotic fervor toward nation-building! On the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of Independence Day, Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav was marked with the enthusiastic participation of 100 guests in the Flag Hoisting ceremony. Ambassador Raj Kumar Srivastava unfurled the National Flag and read out Rashtrapatiji's message, followed by patriotic cultural performances which included a poem and performance of a song Har Ghar Tiranga.

Watch the glimpses here & here.



National Day Reception on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of India's Independence Day

Ambassador Raj Kumar Srivastava hosted the National Day Reception on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of Independence Day at Zagreb and highlighted India's Amrit Kaal's resolve for transforming India into a developed country in the next 25 years by following Pancha Prana as mentioned by Prime Minister from the Red Fort on 15 August 2022. Apart from the iconic Amrit Mahotsav events in Croatia, Amb also appreciated the recently published book on 30 years of Croatian-Indian links "Thirty Chapters for Thirty Years of Diplomatic Relations (1992-2022)". Among the 150 distinguished guests were the former President of Croatia H.E. Mr. Stjepan Mesić, Mayor of the City of Zagreb, H.E. Mr. Tomislav Tomašević, and Member of the Prime Minister's Scientific Advisory Board and the Professor Emeritus of the National Forensic Science University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat Dr. Dragan Primorac. The guests witnessed the Indian classical music performance by Sarod Maestro Arnab Bhattacharya along with Tabla player Rohen Bose.

Watch the glimpses of the function at the following LINK.



Published book on 30 years of Croatian-Indian links "Thirty Chapters for Thirty Years of Diplomatic Relations (1992-2022)"

CROATIAN-INDIAN LINKS: Thirty Chapters for Thirty Years of Diplomatic Relations (1992 – 2022)

> Edited by Ivan Andrijanić



PREFACE (Raj Kumar Srivastava)	VII
INTRODUCTION (Ivan Andrijanić)	IX
POLITICS AND DIPLOMACY	1
Ivan Andrijanić: Political and Economic Ties Between Croatia and India	3
Mislav Ježić: Stjepan Radić and Mohandas Karamchand Gāndhī	11
Ružica Čičak-Chand: Josip Broz Tito and India – The Non-Aligned Movement	25
Ivan Andrijanić: Drago Štambuk – Diplomat and Poet	41
MISSIONARIES	47
Zdravka Matišić: Nikola Ratkaj	49
Milka Jauk-Pinhak: Some Notes on the Pioneer Indologist Filip Vesdin	
(Paulinus a Sancto Bartholomaco)	53
Antun Štefan: Pavao Mesarić, Monk of the Society of Jesus, Missionary in India	63
Helena Motoh: Anton Vizjak – A Missionary of Everyday Life	67
Fr. Irudhaya Jothi SJ: Fr. Ante Gabrić, S.J. – The Apostle of the Sundarbans	73
LITERATURE, CULTURE, RELIGION AND SCIENCE	83
Constantine Leo Borissoff: Antun Mihanović at the Beginnings of	
Croatian Indology	85
Orsat Ligorio: Pero Budmani, the Indologist	91
Saša Krnic: Ivana Brlić-Mažuranić and Vladimir Mažuranić –	
From Dubrovnik to Diu	101
Ružica Čičak Chand: Tin Ujević and India	109
Hrvoje Hitrec: Josip Hitrec and India – A Croat Captivated by India	119
Igor Grbić: Vesna Krmpotić and Fascination with India	125

Preface

AMBASSADOR OF INDIA, H.E. RAJ KUMAR SRIVASTAVA



As we celebrate three decades of India and Croatia diplomatic relations, this collection of 30 essays are the perfect tribute to those who contributed in bringing the two countries closer.

The year 2022 is also an important year for India, as we celebrate 75 years of India's independence in the form of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM). We celebrate this important milestone as a process, and not as an event, to prepare ourselves for Independence

2.0, which aims to harness the opportunities that are ahead of us in the next 25 years, when as a young nation and as largest democracy, India has the chance to not only create human-centric growth for itself but also contribute globally for the same.

One of the pillars of these celebrations is to celebrate the unsung heroes of our freedom struggle. The 30 chapters in this book also, in a way, are to celebrate the unsung heroes and themes of India-Croatia relationship. I am sure the readers and the stake-holders of our bilateral relationship would get motivation and inspiration while reading these chapters about how we can strengthen our bilateral partnership further in diverse areas and create new chapters in our bilateral relationship. Some of those new chapters are already taking shape in the areas of innovation, traditional systems of healthcare, demographic complementarities and the 3 Ts – Technology, Tourism and Trade.

I take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation for the academic and research output produced in preparation for this project by the Indology Department of the University of Zagreb and the wholehearted support provided to this effort by the Croatia-India Society and the different authors of these chapters. The Ministry of Culture, Government of Croatia has provided constant support to this project which began exactly one year back and saw the fruition well in time before the day of 30 years of establishment of diplomatic relationship between our two countries.

Darko Žubrinić: Mahatma Gandhi and Kristian Kreković	
Connecting India and Croatia	129
Klara Gönc Moačanin: Indian-Croatian Literary Relations	139
Hrvoje Čargonja: Forms of Religiosity of Indian Origin in Croatia	14
Dipendra Prasad: Ramanujan, Harish-Chandra, and Croatian Mathematics	15
van Andrijanić: Travellers, Travel Writers, and Documentarians	16
INDOLOGY	17.
Mislav Ježić: Indology in Croatia – Its Past and Present, Projects,	
Contributions, and Publications	17:
uraj Bubalo: Čedomil Veljačić (1915–1997) – Hermit and Philosopher	19
Zdravka Matišić: Svetozar Petrović (1931–2005)	20
Mislav Ježić: Radoslav Katičić, an Accomplished Philologist and he Founder of the Study of Indology in Croatia	20
ivan Andrijanić: Milka Jauk-Pinhak, a Devoted and Respected Teacher of Indolog	y 21
van Andrijanić: Ružica Čičak-Chand and Contemporary South Asian Social and Political Themes	22
Zdravka Matišić: Rada Iveković and Karmen Bašić	22
Marijana Janjić: Zdravka Matišić – the Grande Dame of Croatian Indology	229
Mislav Ježić: Klara Gonc Moačanin – Broad Interests and Great Energy n Indology Studies	23.
van Andrijanić: Mislav Ježić and his Contributions to Croatian and International Indology	23

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Ambassador Srivastava in an interview for Poslovni.hr headlined "Our (Croatian-Indian) relations can only grow with the potential of 4T (Talent, Tourism, Technology, and Trade)" pointed out that as India celebrates its 75th Anniversary on the 15th of August this year, India is firmly placed with resolve to make its next 25 years' journey empowering its most important resource, that is, its people for inclusive growth, driven by innovation and technology.

"As we celebrate the 75th Anniversary of India's independence on 15th August this year, India is firmly placed with resolve to make its next 25 years' journey empowering its most important resource, that is, its people for inclusive growth, driven by innovation and technology. For much of the 2000 years of the common history of humanity, India was the largest economy contributing 1/3 of the global output, but after two centuries of colonial subjugation and economic exploitation under the British Empire, India's contribution to global GDP came down to mere 3% at the time of independence 75 years back. Today, after 75 years of independence, in purchasing power parity terms, India's contribution to political GDP stands at 8.7%. With a 17.3% population of the world, India needs, at least, to double its global GDP contribute to global peace, stability, and prosperity. The journey ahead is likely to be on an exponential growth path, given the demographic dividend that India enjoys with the average age of its population being at 29 years."

Read the full interview
<u>https://bit.ly/3CcDm1d</u>

NEWS ON INDIA

India had proven to be the "pharmacy of the world" that assisted several countries in the remotest parts of the globe during the Covid-19 pandemic's recovery phase, President UN General Assembly (PGA) and Foreign Minister of Maldives Abdulla Shahid highlighted during his two-day visit to the country. In a meeting with Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, he acknowledged the pivotal role played by India during the Covid-19 pandemic. Dhankhar congratulated him for his exemplary leadership of the UN General Assembly, especially in wake of the COVID19 pandemic and ongoing international conflicts, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

Pointing out that the success of Maruti-Suzuki signifies the strong India-Japan partnership, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that relations between the two countries have reached new heights in the last eight years. Addressing a programme marking the commemoration of 40 years of Suzuki in India at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar, Prime Minister Modi said, "when it comes to this friendship, every Indian definitely remembers our friend, former Prime Minister Late Shinzo Abe." During the event, Prime Minister Modi laid the foundation stones of two key projects of the Suzuki group in India - the Suzuki Motor Gujarat Electric Vehicle Battery Manufacturing Facility at Hansalpur, Gujarat, and Maruti Suzuki's upcoming vehicle manufacturing facility in Kharkhoda, Haryana.

India plans to export \$23.56 billion in agricultural goods in 2022-23. India has set a goal of exporting \$23.56 billion worth of agricultural products in 2022-23, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said in a statement released on Sunday. APEDA, which is an export promotion organization for agricultural products of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry has created an outreach strategy for the promotion of agricultural exports in order to reach the USD 23.56 billion export goal. Under this strategy, 300 events will be organized in the current year to increase exports. The APEDA also plans to raise awareness among the stakeholders in the food export industry by showcasing its impact on human beings through different digital platforms, including social media sites.

India-UK Free Trade Agreement: Teams working to finalise key features by October end. Negotiators from India and the United Kingdom are working towards wrapping up discussions on major issues for the proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) by the end of October in keeping with a Diwali deadline. The two sides concluded the fifth round of talks for an India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) on July 29. India and UK officials will continue to work intensively throughout the summer towards the target to conclude the majority of talks on a comprehensive and balanced Free Trade Agreement by the end of October 2022, India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry said.

Developed countries keen to sign trade deals with India now, says Piyush Goyal India is one of the largest producers of cotton and asserting that the world now sees India as an engine of economic growth, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said that developed countries were very keen to sign trade deals. India enjoyed the confidence of the world today, Goyal stressed while addressing traders at the Vyapari Udyami Sammelan in New Delhi.





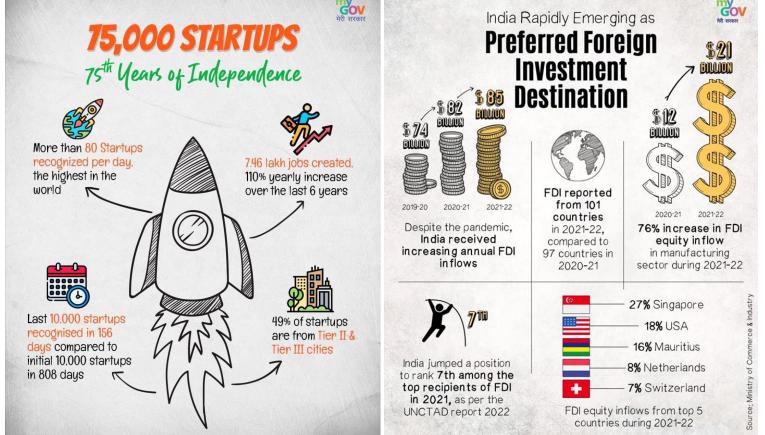






News from India in Infographics





Ambassador's outreaches

Ambassador Srivastava read the message from PM Narendra Modi on the occasion of Sri Krishna Janmashtami to the representatives of ISKCON Croatia (International Society for Krishna Consciousness).

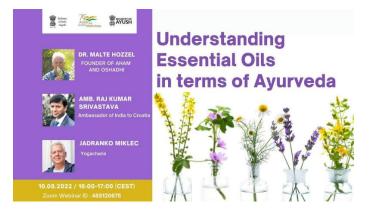


The Zagreb-based Ministry of Ayush, Cell's fortnightly Online Session "Modern Science and Ancient Knowledge" with Denis Delogu, author of the book "In the Woods", Ambassador Srivastava & Yogacharya Jadranko Miklec was held on the 31st August.



AYUSH CELL

In case you have missed watching the Zagrebbased AYUSH Cell's fortnightly Online Session "Understanding Essential Oils in terms of Ayurveda" with world expert Dr. Malte Hozzel, Founder of AHAM & Oshadhi, Ambassador Srivastava, and Yogacharya Jadranko Miklc, was held on the 10th August, you can find the recording at the following link.



Denis Delogu



nis Delogu is best known as the author of the 2015 bestsel book "In the woods" published in four editions and translated into several languages. In his book, Denis describes how his life and a successful business career as an entrepreneur and nanager were interrupted by unfortunate nces after being diagnosed with a severe a

Through difficult economic and health crises, and despite the ate health system Denis finds a way out, and regains his k despite the poor prognosis customary for his sis. In the midst of data and information and an impersonal modern world health system, where each person is ced to little more than a number, combining modern science and ancient traditions of India he found his path to physical and spiritual healing

Today, Denis has a long-year career in the civil engineering sector as a project manager and is a certified construction project manager from Columbia University, NY. However, archaeology has always been his gr<u>eat passion, so after</u> graduating from business school, in 2008 he enrolled in archeology studies at "University of Leicester - School of Archeology and Ancient History" in Great Britain, where he graduated, "With Merit" in 2013. Never in his wildest dreams did he think that archaeology and history one day would be the main tool to regain health and understanding the underlying causes of illness referred to as "Illnesses of the

From the Croatian Media

Awakening the Sleeping Giant: India is much more than yoga and Gandhi

PROBUĐENI D Indija je mnogo više od joge i Gandhija

Drugu najvecu državu prema broju stanovnika i jednu od najvećih svjetskih ekonomija još uvijek se doživljava kroz nekoliko banalnih stereotipa na razini razglednice ili, gore, kao zaostalu zemlju trećeg svijeta. No, Indija je civilizacija za sebe i ekonomska sila u velikom zamahu koja nudi mnoge poslovne prilike voljnima zaviriti iza Bollywooda, joge, Gandhija, svetih krava i Taj Mahala

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e 28 država i osam Indije, ona će idućih godina rasti više od šest posto, Kina oko četiri do pet posto - uvjerava ekonomist	
e dalje dijele na Na Kristija Katarski z Fakultata političkih zna-	
kte No, Kristijan Kotarski s Fakulteta političkih zna- nosti ne glorificira toliko ulogu te zemlje, prije svega onu ekonomsku, – Indija je važan dio QUAD-a (Kva- dri lateralnoga sigurnosnog dijalogu, koji čine SAD,	
a od tih Japan, Indija i Australija), kojemu je cilj biti protu- ica ima svoje regii. Najveća je prijetnja Indiji pak njezin susjeć nistrativno regii. Najveća je prijetnja Indiji pak njezin susjeć Pakistan, koji užira veliku vojna, političku i oko- nomsku podršku Kine, a nakon toga Kina, s kojom Indija ima niz otvorenih graničnih planja. Dugo	
šnja je vlada rečno, interesi Indije više konvergiraju sa Zapadom nego s blokom država koje dijele autoritarni model uvnome gradu uprvljanja. No, spiena svoje tratelške uloge, hr- dja vidi porećani manevarniki prostor koji je stvo- rila ruska agresija na Ukrajimu. Stoga ne trebi ču- dan status dni ta uz diskont kupuje ogromne količne ruska	
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"The most beautiful miss world winners in the world come from India. Yoga, a worshiped physical discipline, was born in that country. Of course, also Mahatma Gandhi, the man who led India out of colonialism in 1947 and introduced India to the world of freedom and democracy with the Non-violent movement. And for most, when they first hear about India, it would be - that. Okay, there is also some Indian cuisine with fragrant spices, exotic animals, hyperproduction of Bollywood film production, holy cows, a huge gap between the rich and those at the bottom, without connective tissue, the middle class. But economics and geopolitics are difficult. Well, wrong! Apart from the fact that next year, according to all predictions, it will threaten China in terms of the number of inhabitants, who are on average 27 years old, therefore, in the tension of physical and creative strength, India is also grabbing its share of the cake in geopolitics. Because the good cards fell into their hands."

Glimpses from the article which was published in the July edition special editorial publication on India in the LIDER Magazine can be observed at the following <u>link</u>.

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

On the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of India's Independence Day, Sarod Maestro Arnab Bhattacharya & Tabla player Rohen Bose enthralled the audiences at Dubrovnik Summer Festival & Split Summer festival



CULTURE ON THE OCCASION OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDIAN INDEPENDENCE

dubrovački vje

Arnab Bhattacharya and Rohen Bose presented Indian classical music

NEWS COUNTY SPORT MOSKAR

Read the media publication in Dubrovački vjesnik about the performance of Arnab Bhattacharya along with Tabla player Rohen Bose at Dubrovnik Summer Festival on the 14th August at the following <u>link</u>.



Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

An evening of Indian classical music on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of India's Independence Day, by Sarod Maestro Arnab Bhattacharya along with Tabla player Rohen Bose was held at the Ludbreg Castle. The event was attended by the Mayor of Ludbreg, Mr. Dubravko Bilić, and Ambassador Srivastava.



Watch the full performance at the following <u>link</u>.



Embassy of India Veleposlanstvo Indije

