



Newsletter



Visit of Croatian Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Gordan Grić to India

In the bilateral meeting with the External Affairs Minister, Dr Jaishankar, the two Ministers signed the MoU on Defence Cooperation, apart from discussing other important areas of the bilateral relationship. Foreign Minister Radman presented EAM with the Croatian national football team jersey with number 10 and EAM's name written on it (jersey number 10 is worn by the most popular Croatian footballer Luka Modric). View the warm meeting [here](#).



Dr. S. Jaishankar

@DrSJaishankar

India government official

A warm meeting with FM @glicradman of Croatia.

Signed an MoU on Defence Cooperation. Croatia offers many possibilities as an economic partner for India.

Thank him for the Luka Modrić gift.



Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Mr. Gordan Grlić Radman attended the Raisina Dialogue



Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Mr. Gordan Grlić Radman, attended the Raisina Dialogue, where he participated in a panel on “Eastern Promise: The Power Shifts in EU Politics. Grlić Radman was also a guest on a podcast titled “The Three Seas Initiative at the Forefront of European Strategic Positioning”, where he stressed that 3SI had to respond timely to the current food and energy crisis, as well as provide an opportunity for the countries of South Asia to import goods via the Port of Rijeka to Central and Eastern Europe. “By strengthening EU’s cohesion and transatlantic ties, the 3SI countries have shown that economic growth and energy security is the backbone of EU’s resilience,” he underlined.

In addition, the minister held a bilateral meeting with his Indian counterpart Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, who visited Croatia in September last year. “Global circumstances have changed drastically since our last talks. I’m pleased to highlight Croatia’s perspective, as a Central European and Mediterranean EU member state that is dealing with the foreign policy situation in Europe and the world in a level-headed manner,” Grlić Radman said.



India in Croatia @India_Croatia · Mar 2

Pleased to welcome H.E. Mr. Gordan Grlić Radman Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, to India.

MVEP/MFEA @MVEP_hr · Mar 2

Minister @grlicradman held a lecture to students of @UnivofDelhi. He shared views on global issues, #EU-#India relations, as well as bilateral relations and perspectives, especially in education, where several new university partnerships have been launched in the last two years.



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India in Croatia @India_Croatia · Mar 2

Pleased to welcome H.E. Mr. Gordan Grlić Radman Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, to India.

Gordan Grlić Radman @grlicradman · Mar 2

Ugodan razgovor sa studentima i lektoricom hrvatskog jezika na Fakultetu umjetnosti Sveučilišta u #NewDelhi Vesnom Ratković na kojemu se provode jezični tečajevi, kao i razni kulturni događaji koji povezuju Hrvatsku i Indiju.



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Startup scene India-Croatia

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STARTUP INDIA INVESTOR CONNECT

For Startups

For Investors



Startup India Investor Connect is a platform that connects startups with investors to facilitate investment opportunities through AI-based matchmaking. Through this, entrepreneurs will be able to directly reach out to multiple investors using one single application and pitch their startup idea.

This portal provides the access to the Indian Startups Ecosystem; wherein countless innovators showcase the solution to the current needs of the society. As an Investor you can launch investment opportunities to attract and evaluate suitable startups that would meet your investment goals. You can create a Watchlist of startups and keep yourself updated on their progress.

Find out more at: www.investorconnect.startupindia.gov.in

Objectives



AI Based Matchmaking

Use AI Based Matchmaking to connect startups with investors



Investment Opportunities

Facilitate Investment in Startups



Marketplace

Create a virtual marketplace of investors for innovative startups



Access in Emerging Cities

Enable connects between investors and startups in emerging cities

Because of the work I moved from India to Croatia in dSPACE



"When I heard that dSPACE was looking for software testers for its new product, I got in touch and was excited to have this opportunity to work with a company I admire, even though it meant moving to a completely new country, Meghana Bhaskara, an expert, describes her arrival in Croatia for software testing," said Ms Meghana Bhaskara, who moved from India to Croatia.

"The hardest thing for me was leaving my family and everything I knew, but the company and colleagues were very supportive and made the transition easier for me. Now I work for dSPACE in Zagreb, Croatia, and I look forward to continuing my career in software testing in this great company," says Meghana Bhaskara.

She was born and raised in Bengaluru, which is often called the Silicon Valley of India. After completing her Master's in Computer Applications, she started her career with an Indian automotive company that used dSPACE products. Meghana has always been associated with dSPACE since the beginning of her career. However, after two years the project ended and she was transferred to another project.

As for the products offered by dSPACE, its main focus is on AURELION, a tool for sensor-realistic simulation and testing of advanced driver assistance systems and applications for autonomous driving. However, it also provides support and maintenance for MotionDesk and SensorSim, older products that will be fully replaced by AURELION in the future.

dSPACE AURELION is a simulation tool that provides sensor-realistic simulation for advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS) and autonomous driving applications.

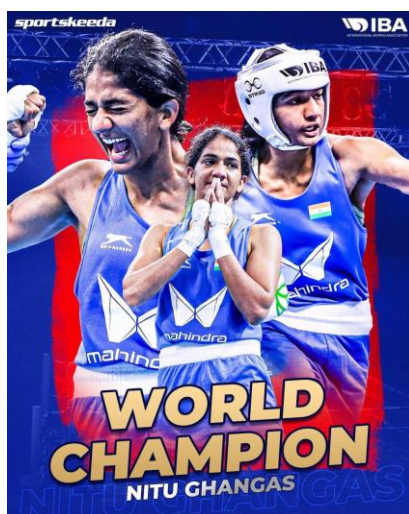
According to Meghana, living and working in Croatia is an incredible experience for her. "The people here are extremely friendly and welcoming, which made my transition a lot easier. Since English is widely spoken, I had no problems communicating with colleagues and finding my way in a new environment," claims Meghana.

"The support I received from my colleagues at dSPACE was exceptional and I felt like I had been working here for years. Their kindness and willingness to help made me feel at home and I never felt homesick," concludes Meghana.

[Source.](#)

New India at work in diverse sports arenas

Women's World Boxing Championships: Nitu Ghanghas, Saweety Boora become world champions



Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
India*	4	0	0	4
China	3	1	3	7
Russia	1	1	1	3
Italy	1	1	0	2
Brazil	1	0	1	2



Promising youngster Nitu Ghanghas and experienced hand Saweety Boora boxed out of their skin to overcome tough opponents in the 48kg and 81kg finals and claim their maiden titles in the World women's boxing championships at the K.D. Jadhav Hall. While Commonwealth Games champion and double World youth champion Nitu recorded a 5-0 victory over two-time Asian bronze medallist Altantsetseg Lutsaikhana of Mongolia, Asian champion Saweety stunned 2018 champion Lina Wang 4-3, through bout review, to keep her promise of improving upon her 2014 Worlds silver medal. After the 2006 edition, this is the second occasion when Indian boxers secured more than one gold medal.

SHOOTING WORLD CUP 2023

MEDAL STANDINGS

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1 CHN	8	2	2	12
2 IND	1	1	5	7
3 GER	1	1	1	3
4 HUN		2		2
5 AZE		1		1

**INDIA FINISH AT THE 2ND SPOT WITH
1 GOLD, 1 SILVER AND 5 BRONZE**

India bagged a silver and a bronze in the ISSF World Cup in Bhopal, with the air pistol mixed team pair of Varun Tomar and Rhythm Sangwan clinching the second spot, while Rudranksh Patil and R Narmada Nithin securing the third spot in the air rifle event. India has taken their medals tally in the competition to four, including one gold, a silver and two bronze. The second Indian team in the event comprising Divya TS and Sarabjot Singh missed the bronze by a point, finishing fifth with a score of 574. Reigning men's air rifle world champions Rudranksh Patil and R Narmada Nithin, who had combined to win the gold at the ISSF World Cup in Cairo last month, finished with a bronze. The pair had a combined score of 632 in qualification and came third, thereby qualifying for the bronze-medal match against China's Zhang Qiongyue and Yu Haonan, who finished fourth with the same combined score in the 19-strong field.

INDIA IN LOCAL MEDIA

India is poised to break export records despite global challenges

March 30, 2023



[LINK](#)

India's tech industry could be worth \$500 billion by 2030

March 23, 2023.



[LINK](#)

Indian Medical Tourism: Affordable healthcare attracts millions of patients worldwide

March 16, 2023.



Goa, New Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Chennai and Kerala are considered the best places to enjoy rejuvenating treatments among Indian wellness and medical tourism centers.

[LINK](#)

Hyderabad & Bengaluru: Innovation Capitals of India

March 10, 2023.



[LINK](#)

Maharashtra: Business and Industrial Powerhouse of India

March 2, 2023.



[LINK](#)



Travel journal: Magical India through the lens of Marko Vuletić

[LINK](#)

NEWS ON INDIA

Elephants Whisperers and RRR wins make this year India's best at Oscars: Here's how we fared over the years. India had reason to cheer loud at the 95th Academy Awards. 'Naatu Naatu' from RRR and the film The Elephant Whisperers created history by winning in their respective categories. 'Naatu Naatu' won in the Best Original Song' category and The Elephant Whisperers won in the Best Documentary Short Subject race, in what has now turned into a historic year for Indian cinema on the global platform.



India remains a bright spot among global economies: Mr. Piyush Goyal. Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs & Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Mr. Piyush Goyal stated that India was in a "bright spot" despite a slew of economic issues encountered by several countries. He claimed that according to some reports, India's economy would develop at the fastest rate moving forward and that it has successfully met the Covid-19 problems while maintaining strong growth. The three-day trade and investment working group conference, headed by Commerce Secretary Mr Sunil Barthwal, aimed to address difficulties in areas such as trade, sustainability, establishing resilient supply chains, inclusive growth, and maintaining growth in the coming years. The meeting's final day included discussions about integrating micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) globally, developing efficient trade logistics, and exploiting digital infrastructure, which has been one of India's strengths in recent years.



India can become the number one automobile manufacturer by using lithium reserve in J&K: Gadkari. Union road, transport and highway minister Nitin Gadkari said that if India can use the recently discovered reserve of lithium in Jammu and Kashmir, it will become the number one automobile manufacturing country in the world. Addressing an event organised by industry body CII, Gadkari said there is a need to encourage public transport, and electric buses are the future. "Every year, we import 1,200 tonnes of lithium. "Now, in Jammu and Kashmir, we got lithium. (If) we can use this lithium-ion, we will be the number one automobile manufacturing country in the world," he said.



India's GDP to grow at 6% in FY24, inflation will moderate to 5%: CRISIL report. The country's gross domestic product (GDP) is likely to grow at 6 per cent in the 2024 fiscal amid a challenging global macroeconomic environment, Crisil Ratings said in a report. This growth rate is lower than the Reserve Bank of India's forecast of 6.4 per cent growth and the Economic Survey's projection of 6.5 per cent. "We expect India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth to touch 6 per cent in fiscal 2024, compared with 7 per cent estimated by the National Statistical Organisation (NSO) for fiscal 2023," the rating agency said in its report. The agency has attributed three reasons for this 100-basis point deceleration in the FY24 GDP estimate. First, the slowing world economy due to aggressive rate hikes by major central banks will create downside risks to the country's growth. Domestic demand, therefore, will have to do the heavy lifting next fiscal.



Respect, equality for women key to India's progress, says PM Modi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the country could only progress by increasing respect for women, while addressing a post-Budget webinar on the economic empowerment of women. Speaking during the 11th of a series of 12 such webinars following the Budget 2023-24 presentation on February 1, Modi said the Budget had given a new momentum to women-led development. "India can move forward only by raising the levels of respect for women and the sense of equality. I call upon all of you to move forward with the determination to remove every obstacle coming in the way of all women, sisters, daughters," he said.

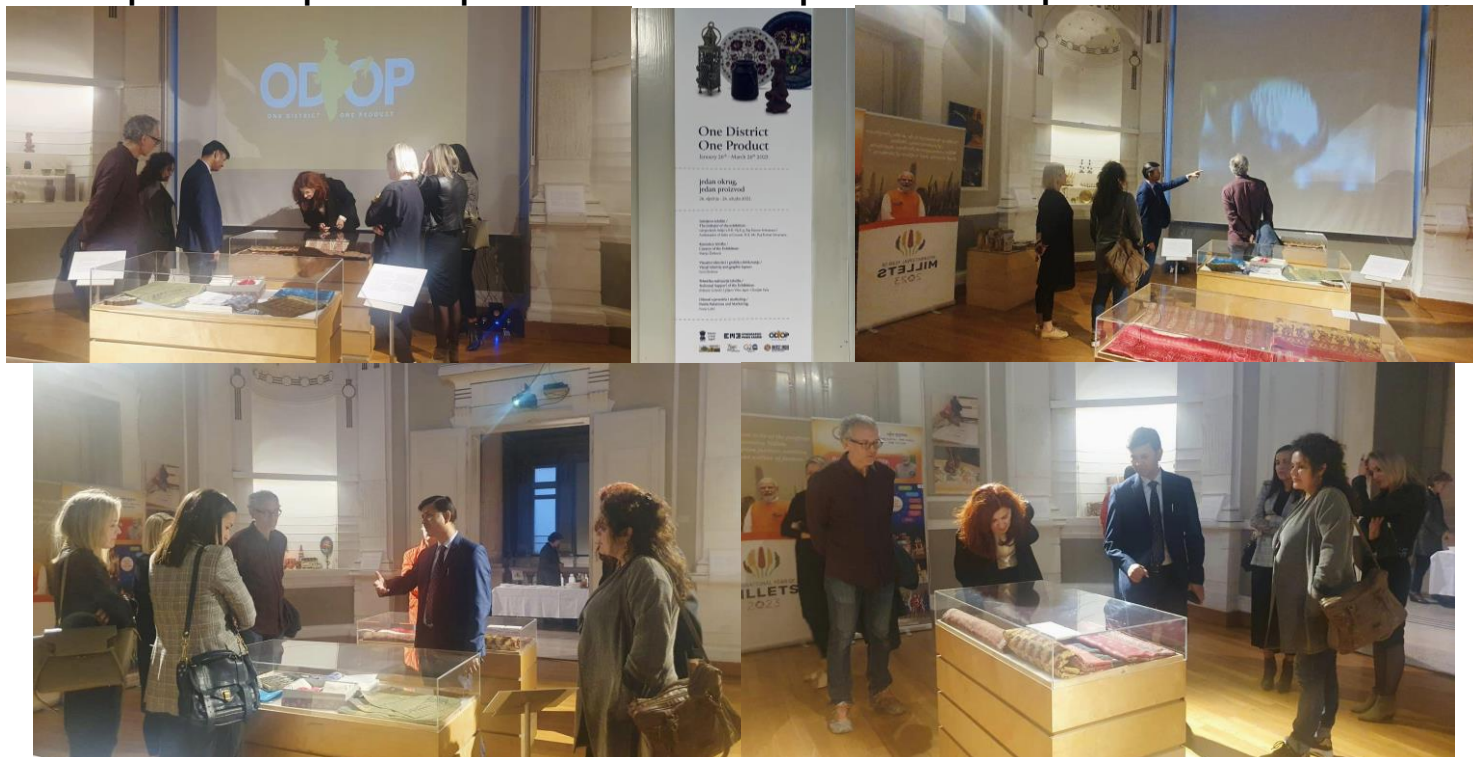


Ambassador's outreaches

Ambassador Srivastava was hosted by the rector of the University of Rijeka, **prof. PhD. Snježana Prijčić-Samaržija** with colleagues: Dean of the Technical Faculty, **prof. PhD. Lada Kranjčević**, dean of the Faculty of Informatics and Digital Technologies, associate professor **PhD. Marina Ivašić Kos** and the former dean of the Faculty of Physics, associate professor **PhD. Marina Karuza**. The meeting was also attended by **Mladen Zlamalik** and **Neven Tomašić**, representatives of the Croatian-Indian Friendship Society. Since the University of Rijeka signed a cooperation agreement with the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology in October 2021, the meeting discussed the establishment of concrete forms of cooperation with the Faculty of Engineering and the Faculty of Informatics and Digital Technologies. In addition to possible forms of cooperation in the field of digital technologies, artificial intelligence, electrical engineering and computing, Ambassador Srivastava mentioned the possibility of cooperation in the field of medicine and pharmacy, and as a possible Indian partner, he proposed King George's Medical College, a public university that owes its success to sophisticated world-class biomedical research, especially in the treatment of oncological diseases.



One District One Product ODOP exhibition at the Ethnographic Museum in Zagreb continues for the past two months. **Ambassador Srivastava** gave an introductory tour to Croatian friends having an interest to develop business partnerships with Indian counterparts for ODOP products.



Academic partnerships

The Indian School of Business (ISB) had the honour of hosting Her Excellency Ms Kolinda Grabar Kitarovic, former President of Croatia. Professor Madan Pillutla, Dean, ISB received H.E. Ms Kolinda Grabar Kitarovic and highlighted ISB's activities and initiatives. Coinciding with the visit, ISB and Zagreb School of Economics and Management, Croatia inked a graduate student exchange agreement in the presence of H.E. Ms Kolinda Grabar Kitarovic and through online platform Ambassador Raj Srivastava. The MoU was exchanged by Professor Madan Pillutla and Dr Mato Njavro, Dean, Zagreb School of Economics and Management. As part of the agreement, the exchange students will be expected to undertake an academic program, developed in consultation between the home institution and the host institution, at the host institution as full-time, non-degree status students at the graduate level. H.E. Ms Kolinda Grabar Kitarovic hoped that through the formalised MoU, many students from ISB would visit Croatia, which she said is a gateway to Europe and could potentially open more opportunities to ISB students. Professor Madan Pillutla said that ISB is delighted to add Croatia to its student exchange programme network of 32 countries. He thanked ICCR and the Ministry of External Affairs for their support in organising this visit. H.E. Ms Kolinda Grabar Kitarovic also delivered a distinguished talk at ISB where she addressed the PGP students on 'Digital Transformation and Green Transition- Basis for a Strong India-Europe Relationship'. She spoke about India-Croatia relations and underlined the need to spearhead a partnership between the two countries in the areas of digital transformation and green transition. "Climate change is one of the greatest perils our planet has been facing and we have the obligation to take care of it and the future of our own children," she added.



At the virtual conference on the topic of cooperation between the University of Zagreb, the Faculty of Agriculture and its Indian counterparts from the State of Uttar Pradesh explored in the presence of Ambassador Srivastava several university cooperations possibilities for strengthening the already strong academic ties between India and Croatia. The virtual conference highlighted the possibilities of connecting through exchange programs, R&D and MoU, the University of Zagreb, and the Faculty of Agriculture with 3 universities from UP, including Acharya Narendra Deva University of Agriculture and Technology, Ayodhya, UP, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel University Meerut, UP, C.S. Azad University of Ag. and Tech., Kanpur.



The former President of Croatia had from 19 to 25 March, an intense and productive visit to India

The former President of Croatia had from 19 to 25 March, an intense and productive visit to India. During the visit, Ms Garabr Kitarović was a keynote speaker on “Key Global Challenges as Seen From Europe and Opportunities for Scaling Up India Europe Partnership “ at the India International Centre (IIC) in New Delhi. Delivered a speech on “Digital Transformation & Green Transition - Basis for a Strong India-Europe Partnership” at the Indian School of Business in Hyderabad. Talked to the students at the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education And Research (NIPER) in Hyderabad. Key-note speaker at the “Maharana Pratap Annual Geopolitics Dialogue 2023” on the topic of “India’s Role in the Changing World Order - A Perspective From Europe”, Udaipur. Some private time at the magnificent Taj Mahal. And as a curiosity, experienced the shock waves of the Hindu Kush earthquake in New Delhi on the third anniversary of the Zagreb earthquake.



AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV

ITEC alumni get-together

The Embassy of India, Zagreb celebrated the International Year of Millets 2023 (IYM 2023) at the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation - ITEC alumni get-together with 25 guests. Ambassador Srivastava spoke on the occasion to highlight the growing India-Croatian partnership, especially at the people-to-people level with new Croatian academic institutions getting connected to Indian counterparts. He mentioned the efforts of the Government of India to provide opportunities to Croatian friends in different fields of expertise to visit India and understand the momentum of growth that India is and would witness in the next 25 years. The presentations by ITEC Alumni underscored one common point of blissful experience and networking opportunities that ITEC courses provide. Bogdan Okreša Đurić, a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Faculty of Organization and Informatics (FOI) from the City of Varaždin shared his impression on the recent participation in a 6-week Specialised Programme on Artificial Intelligence Centre for Development of Advanced Computing: C-DAC) in the city of Noida. During his stay, Bogdan also visited Sharda University, one of the top universities in India and a partner university of FOI International from last year. Among other speakers, the guest could enjoy the view of ITEC alumni Izabela Marić President of the Croatian Yoga Federation and Izabela Majić from IBS-Experts International. The Attendees enjoyed an Indian dinner based on Millets celebrating the International Year of Millets 2023.



AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV

An evening at Napredak with Miro Gavran

Croatia India Society in cooperation with Embassy of India organized an evening at Napredak with Miro Gavran. The famous contemporary Croatian author Miro Gavran, whose works were translated into 40 languages in 250 different editions, gave a presentation about his books and plays which were published in Indian languages. He also praised the diverse and rich cultural heritage that India brings to the world and Croatia. Ambassador Srivastava highlighted the importance of creating awareness and celebrating the works of universal values & wisdom like that of Miro Gavran globally for creating peace & prosperity in the identity based divided world.



AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV

Rijeka part the International year of Millets

The opening of Rijeka part of the initiative related to the International Year of Millets (IYM) 2023 was held in the Rijeka City Hall on March 30, in cooperation with the Embassy of India, Zagreb, the city of Rijeka, the Croatian -Indian Friendship Society, and members of the Kvarner Health Tourism Cluster with welcome speeches by Mr Mladen Zlamalik, Croatia-India Friendship Society, Mr Raj Kumar Srivastava, Ambassador of India to Croatia, who explained that the UN, governments and non-governmental organizations around the world, including India, are trying to make millet one of the key foods. Ambassador also mentioned that Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi shared his vision to make the International Year of Millet 2023 a 'People's Movement' while positioning India as the 'Global Millet Hub'. Among the inaugural speakers were also Mr Jadran Mandekic, leader of the project "Rijeka – the Healthy City" and Ph.D.Sc. Vladimir Mozetič, MD, president of the Kvarner Health Tourism Cluster. The event attendees witnessed lectures of prof. PhD. Davor Štimac, head of the Clinic for Internal Medicine and head of the Department of Gastroenterology at KBC Rijeka. Attendees had also the opportunity to hear about the benefits of millets by Ms. Vanja Đurica from Thalassotherapy Opatija and a presentation on the topic "Millet - a grain worth gold" by Ms. Bruna Škapin, M.Sc. interior Polyclinics for the prevention of cardiovascular diseases and reh. "Hearty". After the lecture, a snack menu based on millets was served to the attendees.



AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV

Blissful International Chess Lovers Tournament - “Ambassadors Cup”



Embassy of India, Zagreb, in partnership with the Croatian Chess Federation, City of Zagreb & Namaste Indian Restaurant organized a blissful International Chess Lovers Tournament - “Ambassadors Cup” at the lobby of the Concert Hall Vatroslava Lisinskog on 15 March 2023. 11 Diplomats (from 8 countries) & 11 Croatian friends played 36 games spread over 5 hours. The “Ambassadors Cup” Tournament was inaugurated by H E Mr Frano Matusić, State Secretary of MOFA. Amb Srivastava mentioned the strong partnership between Croatian Chess Federation with Indian counterparts and the visits of Indian legend Vishwanathan Anand to Croatia in 2019 & 2021 & possibly later in 2023. Mr Veljko Kajtazi, member of the Croatian parliament spoke about the growing India-Croatia partnership including in the sports area. Secretary General of CCF, Mr Alojzije Janković mentioned about his last year’s visit to India leading a Croatian delegation for the Chess Olympiad 2022 Chennai. The proud winner of the beautiful “Ambassadors Cup” 🏆 was Mr Tomislav Čorić, the Deputy Governor of the Croatian National Bank & former Croatian Minister of Economy. Everyone who attended this professionally well-organized event had an experience worth remembering. Chess truly broke the artificial barriers that we create in our minds. Respect for the talent, youth, age, experience, modesty and feeling of One Earth, One Family, One Future was all in evidence during the whole event.



AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV

The month-long celebration of the International Year of Millets started with the Holi Festival & International Women's Day

The beautiful evening, hosted jointly by Croatia India Society & Embassy of India, of Colours, Culture, Costumes, Cuisine & Conversations in Zagreb that was celebrated on 8th Of March at the Indian restaurant Namaste with 75 guests on the three coincidental occasions of Holi Festival, International Women's Day, & Millets Food Festival. Ambassador Srivastava highlighted the essence of Holi Festival as the one which spreads the message of unity, inclusiveness, & living in the moment, and thus providing a blissful experience. Guest of Honour, H E Davor Ivo Stier, member of Croatian Parliament & former Foreign Minister of HR, addressed the guests and welcomed the leadership role of India in bringing to the global attention the issues and ideas which are important for the whole planet, including during India's G20 Presidency. He underscored the continuous strengthening of India-Croatia relationship and mentioned the recent visit of Foreign Minister H E Gordan Grlic Radman to New Delhi which has successful outcomes including in Defense cooperation. The Indian dances connected with Holi and Croatian traditional costumes were presented to celebrate the International Women's Day showcasing the contributions, class, & charisma of women. The Menu for the evening was specially curated by Namaste Restaurant based on Millets to celebrate the IYM 2023.



AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV

During the one-month celebration, Ambassador Raj Srivastava hosted a Member of the Croatian Parliament, Mr Domagoj Hajdukovic & Mayor of the City of Pula, Mr Filip Zoricic for an Indian lunch based on Millets celebrating the International Year of Millets (IYM) 2023 and discussed their forthcoming maiden visits to India. The Millets Food Festival continued at the Namaste Restaurant in Zagreb celebrating the International Year of Millets 2023. Ambassador Srivastava also with friends from several countries for a healthy discussion about healthy & climate-friendly food.



Millet Festival menu

Starters

Bajra millet masala idli

Jawar millet Veg Tikki

Ginger Coconut Chicken tikka

Main courses

Deggi Chicken curry

Chana palak

Dal Makhani

Rice & Breads

Little millet Veg pulav

Plain rice

Breads & Sides

Ragi millet Dosa

Mix millet Roti

Butter naan

Ragi papad

Desserts

Rabdi Jamun with Ragi badam halwa

Compiled by
Embassy of India, Zagreb

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