





# Newsletter



# Official visit to the Republic of Croatia by the Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture of India, Mrs Meenakashi Lekhi

Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture of India Mrs. Meenakashi Lekhi paid an official visit to Croatia from April 15 to 17, 2023. The Minister visited the Technical Museum of Nikola Tesla and the Museum of the City of Zagreb to get an impression of Croatia's rich scientific and historical heritage. During her stay, she noticed the influence of Nikola Tesla, truly a person of global importance considering what he left behind for humanity, he was also influenced by the Indian philosopher Swami Vivekananda whose speech in Chicago in 1893 left an indelible mark on Tesla.

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Meenakshi Lekhi 🥝 15 April at 21:09 · 🕄

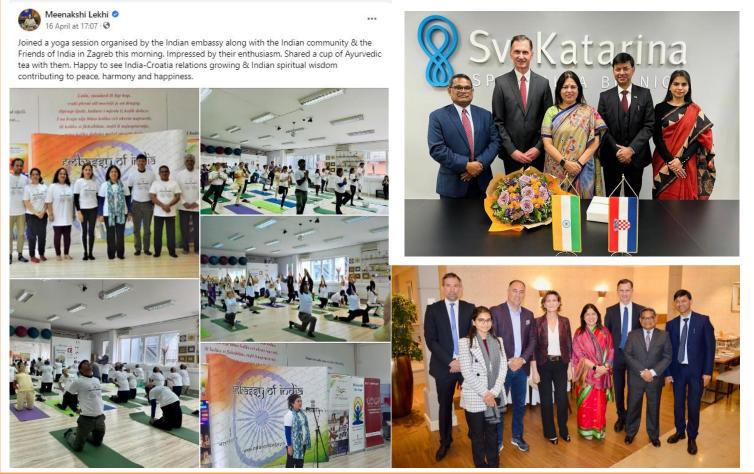
Received a warm welcome upon arrival in Croatia at the Zagreb airport. Look forward to meeting the Croatian dignitaries and exchanging views on areas of mutual interest and interacting with the Indian diaspora. India in Croatia (Embassy of India, Zagreb) Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India



Visited Nikola Tesla & Zagreb City Museum and got an impression of the rich scientific & historical heritage of Croatia. Nikola Tesla, indeed a person of global importance, given what he left behind for humanity, was also influenced by Indian philosophy and especially Swami Vivekananda's Chicago Speech.



Minister Lekhi discussed genomics, economics, sports, history, and other relevant topics with Igor Štimec, head coach of the Indian national team, Alojzije Janković, Vice-President of the European Chess Federation, Mrs Martina Dalić, former Economy Minister & CEO of Podravka and Dr Dragan Primorac, former S&T Minister & world's leading genetic forensic expert. On Sunday,16<sup>th</sup> of April she met with members of the Indian community and friends of India and joined a special yoga session. She also visited the UNESCO heritage site of Plitvice Lakes. MoS visited the special hospital of St. Katarina led by Dr Dragan Primorac and learned about the possibilities of cooperation within whole genome analysis projects in clinical practice.



# Interaction with the faculties of the University of Zagreb

As part of her official visit to the Republic of Croatia, the Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture of India, Mrs Meenakashi Lekhi, met on Monday with representatives of the University of Zagreb and constituents who cooperate with Indian higher education institutions in the Council Hall of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Zagreb. "I am extremely glad that I had the opportunity to attend, along with the rector of the University of Zagreb, prof. PhD. Stjepan Lakušić, during the interaction with the dean of the Faculty of Kinesiology, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Academy of Fine Arts, as well as a representative of the College of Algebra and other members of the delegation", noted Minister Lekhi and added that she was impressed by the current and potential cooperation between India and Croatia. "It is a privilege to sign a five-year memorandum of cooperation between Lalit Kala Akademi New Delhi and the Academy of Fine Arts of the University of Zagreb," said Minister Lekhi during her speech. After signing the memorandum, MoS Lekhi & Rector Stjepan Lakušić planted a tree on the campus of the Faculty of Agriculture symbolic of the seeds sown on this day for youth & innovation driven India-Croatia partnership.



Minister of Culture and Media, PhD. Nina Obuljen Koržinek received Minister Lekhi for a meeting. MoS expressed particular interest in further strengthening cultural ties but also cooperation in the protection and preservation of cultural heritage, and archaeology between India and Croatia. Finally, a working lunch was hosted by the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Mr Frano Matušić, in the honor of Mrs Lekhi, where they discussed the regional situation as well as areas of interest for strengthening bilateral cooperation, especially in education, economy, culture and technology between Croatia and India. MoS invited the Secretary of State on his first visit to India at a mutually convenient time. The short official visit of MoS Lekhi contributed in strengthening multiple dimensions of India-Croatia partnership. Watch the glimpses of the visit <u>here</u>.



# **Startup scene India-Croatia**

The Croatian-Indian joint-venture CROIN has opened orders and is preparing the world premiere in Hanover



Half a year after its establishment, the first Croatian-Indian industrial joint venture, CROIN, presented its first four commercial products. It is about two smart sockets and two smart switches that will be offered on the market under the Connekt brand. Their plan is to produce more than 200,000 devices under this brand this year. When it is taken into account that they plan to sell them at 30 to 60 euros per piece, it can be estimated that the target income of CROIN, in 2023, the first commercial year of operation, could rise to 6 million euros. CROIN was created half a year ago through the cooperation of the Croatian companies Elproms Team and Culmena with one of the largest Indian electronics manufacturers, Gelco Electronics, which has more than 500 employees and has a long tradition of manufacturing electronic devices for the industry. Lovro Stipanović, co-founder of Elproms Team says that after four years of development, they are ready for commercialization. "We will present our products at the fair in Hanover, where we have arranged meetings with ten distributors and that will be the beginning of series production,"says Stipanović. Young Samoborians Lovro Stipanović (25), who graduated from FER, and Josip Oroz (24), who graduated from the Faculty of Traffic Sciences, came up with the concept of smart sockets. Their professor, and today co-owner and mentor, Ivan Vlainić, a well-known professor from the Vocational High School in Samobor, who also recognized the talent of Mate Rimac, helped them develop the project. They were then joined by a professor from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Shipbuilding in Zagreb and the founder of the digital transformation company Culmena Nedeljko Štefanić, who is now the director of the Elproms Team. "In CROIN, our company Elproms Team from Samobor holds 57 percent, Gelco Electronics from India 36 percent and Culmena from Zagreb seven percent," Stipanović explains the ownership structure. Nedeljko Štefanić says that they have very ambitious plans. "We are going to Hanover to make the world premiere with Connekt and to arrange sales through distributors in Europe, and then, in the next phase, we plan to expand to the ASEAN region through our partner from India," says Štefanić. He explains that this means that in the next two to three years the production, which they are planning for this year, could be increased up to 25 or even 30 times. The Indian partner, Gelco Electronics, says that they are very excited to launch new smart products. "We are glad that in this way we can encourage cooperation between Croatia and India and inspire other entrepreneurs to cooperate" stated Gelco Electronics, which has so far made two series of one thousand pieces of Connekt devices. Source: Jutarnji List

#### More than 92,000 entities recognized as startups since launch of Startup India

The Government with an intent to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation, and startups and encouraging private investments in the startup ecosystem of the country launched the Startup India initiative on 16th January 2016.

As per eligibility conditions prescribed under G.S.R. notification 127 (E) dated 19th February 2019, entities are recognised as 'startups' under the Startup India initiative by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). Since the launch of the Startup India initiative in 2016, DPIIT has recognised 92,683 entities as startups as on 28th February 2023.

The number of startups recognised in the country in the last five years is as under:

Number of entities recognised as startups by DPIIT				
2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
8,635	11,279	14,498	20,046	26,542

Regular businesses are often measured by success or failure in a specific number of years of operation, whereas, startups and scale-ups (established startups) are more accurately measured by failure or success in a particular phase making it difficult to put together a statistic covering all types of new businesses and their failure rate with any level of accuracy. Therefore, the information with respect to the success or failure of startups is not centrally maintained by the Government.

Startup India initiative was launched on 16th January 2016 with the objective to build a strong eco-system for nurturing innovation and startups in the country that would drive sustainable economic growth and generate large-scale employment opportunities. The details of various programs undertaken by the Government to promote startups across the country under the Startup India initiative are given below.

International Market Access to Indian Startups: One of the key objectives of the Startup India initiative is to help connect the Indian startup ecosystem to global startup ecosystems through various engagement models. This has been done through international Government to Government partnerships, participation in international forums and hosting of global events. Startup India has launched bridges with over 15 countries that provide a soft-landing platform for startups from the partner nations and aid in promoting cross-collaboration.

Startup India Action Plan: An Action Plan for Startup India was unveiled on 16th January 2016. The Action Plan comprises of 19 action items spanning across areas such as "Simplification and handholding", "Funding support and incentives" and "Industry-academia partnership and incubation". The Action Plan laid the foundation of Government support, schemes and incentives envisaged to create a vibrant startup ecosystem in the country.

Startup India Showcase: Startup India Showcase is an online discovery platform for the most promising startups of the country chosen through various programs for startups exhibited in a form of virtual profiles. The startups showcased on the platform have distinctly emerged as the best in their fields. These innovations span across various cutting-edge sectors such as Fintech, EntrepriseTech, Social Impact, HealthTech, EdTech, among others. These startups are solving critical problems and have shown exceptional innovation in their respective sectors. Ecosystem stakeholders have nurtured and supported these startups, thereby validating their presence on this platform.

#### Source.

# New India at work in diverse sports arenas

# The language of football helps me at Dinamo, says Indian winger Soumya Guguloth

Indian women's national team player Soumya Guguloth and her Gokulam Kerala FC teammate Jyoti Chouhan have signed in 2022 a year-long contract with Croatian giants Dinamo Zagreb, becoming their first overseas recruits. Soumya and Jyoti are the first-ever international players for the Dinamo Zagreb women's football team. Since joining Dinamo Zagreb Indian winger Soumya Guguloth, one of multiple Indian women who have forayed overseas over the last year. "Despite the language gap," she says, "what binds us is football. It is the common language really." Meanwhile, Jyoti Chauhan (23) has now become the first-ever Indian footballer to score a goal in the Croatian Women's League having scored for ŽNK Dinamo Zagreb in the 89'th minute of the (4-0) win against Rijeka on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

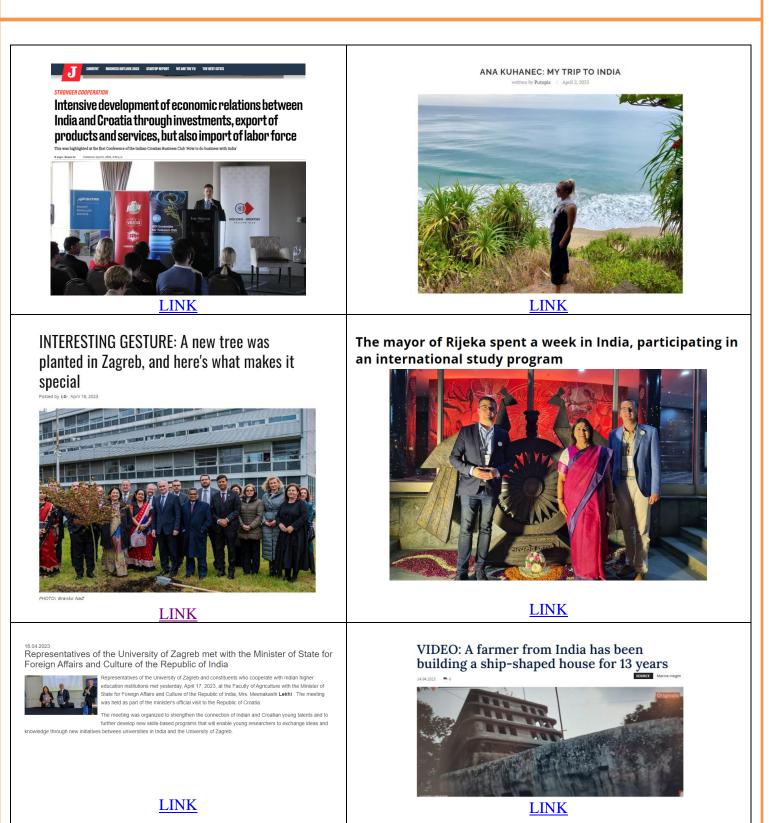


95-year-old Bhagwani Devi wins 3 gold medals for India at World Master Athletics Championships



Bhagwani Devi Dagar, aged 95, won three gold medals in Discuss Throw at the World Masters Athletics Indoor Championship in Torun, Poland. The athlete ran 100m faster than everyone in the 90-94 age category at the 2023 World Masters Athletics Championships in Finland. D agar also shared a video of herself learning to throw from an elderly competitor. "One lamp does not lose anything by lighting another lamp. Meet my friend who often helps me to improve my game. That's the beauty of the game," she wrote.

# INDIA IN LOCAL MEDIA



#### **NEWS ON INDIA**

#### Apple Plans to Double or Triple Investments in India

Apple, the US-based tech giant, has announced plans to double or even triple investments in India over the next few years. The company, which has just opened a second store in the country, mainly assembles iPhones through Taiwanese contract manufacturers in India. However, it is planning to expand into iPads and AirPods. iPhones made up over half of the total smartphones worth around \$9bn exported from India between April 2022 and February, as reported by the India Cellular and Electronics Association. Apple CEO Tim Cook visited India last week to meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and to inaugurate the new store in New Delhi. Cook confirmed that Apple is committed to growing and investing across the country. The new stores in Mumbai and New Delhi have opened at a time when Indian consumers are increasingly looking to upgrade their devices to models with richer feature sets, and Apple is hoping to make India a bigger manufacturing base. In January, India's trade minister reported that Apple wanted the country to account for up to 25% of its production versus about 5% to 7% now.



#### EU-India Aviation Summit strengthens ties and explores cooperation opportunities

EU and India have strengthened their aviation ties during the EU-India Aviation Summit in New Delhi. The two-day summit, jointly organised by the European Commission and Ministry of Civil Aviation of India, focused on deepening EU-India air transport relations and exploring potential opportunities for cooperation in the aviation sector. The summit was attended by over 300 dignitaries and leaders representing the European and Indian aviation sectors. Both sides are confident that closer cooperation will generate significant opportunities for their respective industries, strengthen consumer benefits and make air travel between Europe and India more efficient, greener and safer. The EU is India's third largest trading partner, accounting for  $\in 88$  billion worth of trade in goods and more than  $\in 36.5$  billion for trade in services. Currently, around 2.3 million passengers travel on direct routes between the EU and India every year, with around 60% of all passengers traveling between the two regions connecting via hub airports in other countries. India's aviation industry has experienced impressive growth over the last decade, with passenger traffic increasing from around 60 million in 2010 to more than 340 million in 2019.

#### India Unveils Dynamic Foreign Trade Policy 2023 to Promote Growth in Export Industry

India's Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023 has been launched with the aim of boosting exports and promoting ease of doing business for exporters, while also placing a stronger emphasis on the "export control" regime. The policy is built on trust and partnership with exporters and is based on four pillars: Incentive to Remission, Export Promotion through Collaboration, Ease of Doing Business, and Emerging Areas. The FTP 2023 introduces several new schemes, such as a onetime Amnesty Scheme for exporters to close old pending authorizations and start afresh. It also encourages the recognition of new towns through the Towns of Export Excellence Scheme and the recognition of exporters through the Status Holder Scheme. The policy streamlines the popular Advance Authorization and EPCG schemes and enables merchanting trade from India. The launch of FTP 2023 came at a time when India's export industry is experiencing a significant upswing. According to recent data, merchandise exports have registered the highest ever annual exports of USD 447.46 billion with a growth rate of 6.03% during FY 2022-23, surpassing the previous year's (FY 2021-22) record exports of USD 422 billion. Services exports are leading the overall export growth, with a projected annual value of USD 322.72 billion and a growth rate of 26.79% during FY 2022-23 over FY 2021-22, expected to set a new record. With the launch of FTP 2023 and the government's focus on promoting ease of doing business, technology interface, and collaboration, India's export industry is poised for even greater growth in the coming years.







# **Ambassador's outreaches**

Ambassador Srivastava hosted a lunch with Six Ambassadors and with four Croatian friends from four different fields of Administration, Foreign Policy, Innovation (AI), & Education. Positive talk in diverse fields - Unity in Diversity



Participants: Mr. Joško Klisović, President of Zagreb City Assembly, Ms. Tamara Krupski, Director for Africa and the Middle East, Prof. Dr. Sc. Jurica Pavičić, Vice Rector of University of Zagreb, Ms. Hajdi Ćenan, Co-founder & CEO at airt | President CRO STARTUP, H.E. Mr. Kalle Kankaanpää, Ambassador of Finland, H.E. Mr. Pierfrancesco Sacco, Ambassador of Italy, H.E. Mr. Josef Markus Wuketich, Ambassador of Austria, H.E. Mr Gary Koren, Ambassador of Israel

Ambassador Srivastava was hosted by the Kindergarten Markuševec and gifted them several books for kindergarten children & which would be part of their library repository. During the discussion with the teachers, Ambassador Srivastava present the colours and shapes of New India which the young children would explore in their next education phases.



#### Don't miss the iconic 100th episode of Prime Minister Modi's Mann Ki Baat on 30th April, 2023.



The Embassy of India will be telecasting live, the iconic 100th episode of Prime Minister Modi's Mann Ki Baat at the Embassy of India, 152 B Bijenik, Zagreb 10000, on 30th April 2023, Sunday.

All Indians and friends of India invited to this unique occasion are requested to confirm their attendance at the Whatsapp contact +385 993888699.

#### Programme

#### Arrival of guests

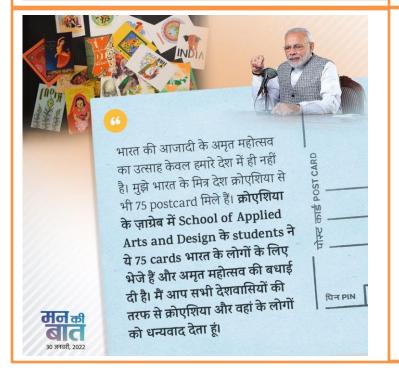
: 715hrs.

Broadcasting of the 100th episode of Prime Minister Modi's Mann Ki Baat followed by Indian Breakfast

: 0730-0830hrs.

The popular program on All India Radio, Prime Minister Mann Ki Baat was started on 3rd October 2014 and is broadcast on last Sunday of every month at 11 AM on the entire AIR and DD network. The 30minute program is completing 100 episodes on 30th April 2023. Mann Ki Baat is translated by AIR into 22 Indian languages, 29 dialects and 11 Foreign languages, apart from English. It includes Hindi, Sanskrit, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Marathi, Odiya, Guiarati. Malayalam, Konkani, Nepali, Manipuri, Kashmiri. Doari. Maithili. Bengali. Assamese, Bodo, Santhali, Urdu, Sindhi. The Dialects include Chhattisgarhi, Gondi, Halbi, Sargujia, Pahari, Sheena, Gojri, Balti, Ladakhi, Karbi, Khasi, Jaintia, Garo, Nagamese, Hmar, Paite, Thadou, Kabui, Mao, Tangkhul, Nyishi, Adi, Monpa, Ao, Angami, Kokborok, Mizo, Lepcha, Sikkimese (Bhutia).

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In the 85th episode of Mann ki Baat on 30th January 2022, PM Modi spoke about 75 postcards received from the Zagreb School of Arts & Design, containing 75 paintings made by the young students of Croatian in recognition of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav – 75 years of India's independence.

The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, wrote the following on that occasion:

"The excitement over the celebration of 75 years of India's independence is not only visible in India but also abroad. I received 75 postcards from our friendly country - Croatia. The students of the School of Applied Arts and Design, Zagreb sent 75 cards and congratulated us on our 75 years of independence. I thank all the citizens of the Republic of Croatia on behalf of the citizens of the Republic of India".

# "How to do Business with India" organized by India Croatia Business Club

A gathering of 100 business persons from Croatia in Zagreb attended the conference on "How to do Business with India" organized by India Croatia Business Club. Amb Raj Srivastava in his address explained the great transformation taking place in India based on unique strength of 4Ds of Democracy, Demography, Diversity, & Demand in IN. India is the skill capital of the world with below 30 years of average age of 1.4 billion people and strong focus on skill based new education policy in India. Two panels brought out many key points for the future Croatian entrepreneurs who are entering Croatia in the near future, summary:- Having trustworthy local partners is important for doing business in India, as well as regularly attending conferences and trade shows. Almost all cities in India are good places to start a business, and it is really hard to make a bad choice. Investors looking to enter the Indian market don't need to worry about choosing a specific city since every city offers excellent opportunities. India's largest cities have more people than the entire country of Croatia, and India's population is much larger than the European Union's. This means there are huge investment opportunities in India. Investing in India pays off quickly, which makes it a great place for investors. India has many interesting business tenders and opportunities available every day, and their application process is efficient. The Indian market is large and diverse, which may be overwhelming for Croatian companies, but there are many business opportunities. For example, Indian railways construct more than 2,500 kilometers of tracks every year (whole of Croatia has the same length of tracks), which creates significant opportunities for Croatian companies to export to India. India's strengths include its skilled workforce, low production costs, business-friendly policies, and open environment. Despite a doubling in the number of issued work permits over the last two years, the Ministry of the Interior in India, didn't increase the number of employees responsible for issuing them. Consequently, the process has become slow and it is causing frustration among companies. In the current year alone, 42,000 work permits have been issued, averaging at 1,000 permits per day. Indian workers have consistently delivered positive results for companies, and the shortage of gualified domestic workers in critical sectors such as the construction and processing industry has left companies with no choice but to rely on foreign labor. In today's job market, it is no longer the companies that choose workers, but rather the workers that choose companies. Croatia's demographic challenges are worsening, and this trend is expected to continue in the future. As a member of the EU's free market, Croatia is likely to face even more serious labor shortages. Croatia urgently needs 100,000 workers to address the growing labor deficit. The Croatian Employment Service closely monitors market trends and updates its list of occupations experiencing a shortage of skilled workers.



# Visit of the Croatian delegates organised by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations(ICCR) & Gen Next Democracy Network

Delegates from eight democratic countries, visited India on an exposure trip to learn about the parliamentary governance system, on Saturday hailed the country's democratic ethos which stood as an example before the world. The visit of the delegates has been organised by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Gen Next Democracy Network as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebration to mark India's 75 years of independence to enable them to get a comprehensive overview of India's democratic traditions, cultural heritage and developmental initiatives.



After spending 10 days in India, I can only say what a magnificent journey it was...The people of India are so sincere, so welcoming, so warm. I can say that without any doubt that it's a privilege to call them my brothers here on earth that it is...' says Mr Domagoj Hajdukovic, from Croatia, who is an MP and also a member of the Inter-parliamentary Friendship Group! Watch the video <u>here</u>.

Modern India is one of the fastest-growing economies in the world as well as the largest. Witness to this is the Maruti Suzuki factory which produces more than a million vehicles annually and is the best-selling car brand in India. There are also numerous startups, the IT industry and entire cities framed around them like CyberHub in Gurugram, posted MP Hajadukovic."Odisha is the cultural cradle of India with a rich history and long tradition. We got chance to see pieces of this rich mosaic by visiting State Museum, Maritime Museum, Konark sun temple, Jagannath Temple at Puri, Raghunathpur.. Odisha is truly breathtaking !", said MP Hajduković.





The mayor of Rijeka, Mr. Marko Filipović, also participated in the study program Gen-Next Democracy Network, organized by ICCR. The goal of the program was to get acquainted with the democratic tradition, functioning and development of democracy in India, but also to exchange experiences on democratic principles and practices of the countries from which the program participants come, while strengthening cultural ties. During his stay in India, the mayor also met with the State Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Culture, Meenakashi Lekhi, who recently visited Croatia.





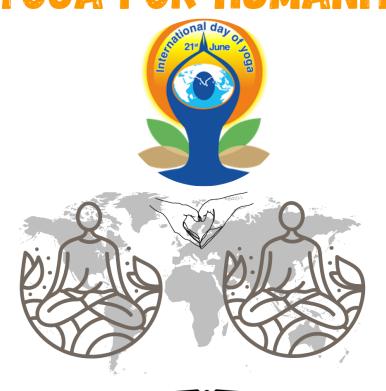
# **AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV**





# **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA 2023**





# **1ST-21ST JUNE, 2023**





#### WITH YOGA PARTNERS





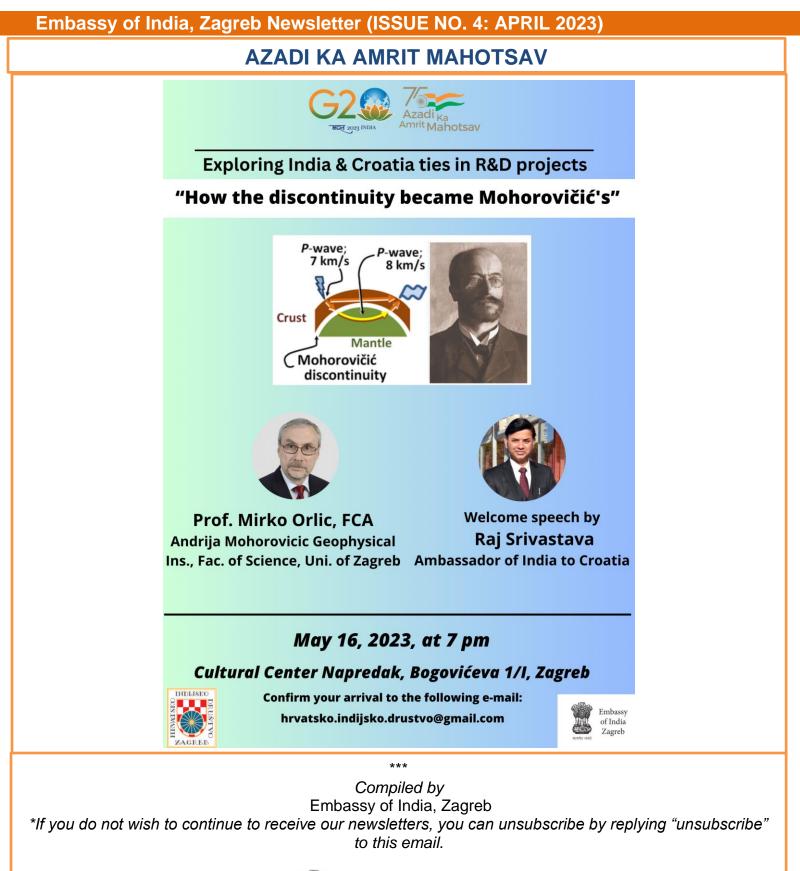
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# **AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV**

3D Dividend of New India Strengthening Global Partnerships - 3D: Democracy, Demography, Diversity"

Ambassador Srivastava gave a presentation to the members of the Croatian Diplomatic Club at HKD Napredak Zagreb Culture Centre on the topic "3D Dividend of New India Strengthening Global Partnerships - 3D: Democracy, Demography, Diversity". Ambassador explained how India has strengthened its Democracy by putting people empowerment at the centre of its initiatives such as Healthcare, Hygiene, Housing, Digital transformation & Financial inclusion, Lifestyle for the Environment, Skill based education, etc and made its Demographic situation a unique advantage. The diversity of India is one of the key reasons for so many CEOs of Global companies today have Indian origins. The event was attended by about 40 senior diplomats and dignitaries which saw 30 minutes of interactive session post the presentation, clearly showing the increasing interest in New India in Croatia.







Embassy of India Veleposlanstvo Indije

