# **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**

# 100 events organized in Croatia

### PROMOTION OF INCREDIBLE INDIA

2

### 1<sup>ST</sup> BRAINSTORMING SESSION WITH CROATIAN ENTREPRENEURS FOR STRENGTHENING INDIA-CROATIA INNOVATION AND BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP



On 22 March 2021, the Embassy organized a tourism event at Westin hotel in which it promoted the Spring edition of Place2Go magazine. In the Spring edition of the magazine, an article on 4 Indian States (Rajasthan, Goa, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh) was published. Top 20 leading Croatian tourist agencies gathered at the event and discussed the possibility of strengthening bilateral cooperation in the tourism sector, especially outgoing tourism to India.



On 24 March 2021, Embassy organized the 1st Brainstorming Session at Westin Hotel with an aim to strengthen India-Croatia innovation and business partnership. At the event 22 Croatian prominent entrepreneurs gathered from various sectors including energy, IT infrastructure, pharmaceuticals, R&D and Innovation. Mr. Deepak Bagla, CEO, Invest India addressed the audience through a video message from India, briefed the Croatian entrepreneurs about the investment opportunities in New India and the Startup revolution which is taking place in India. Invest India, through their dedicated teams in Croatia and with Embassy of India in Zagreb, offered full support to Croatian Businessmen & Innovators in their journey towards India.

# INDIA@75 Art competition Artworks from 6 schools of Croatia

The Art Competition India@75 among school children of Junior/Senior High Schools in Croatia was successfully completed with their thoughts & vision about India. 3 top entries representing traditions, freedom & modernity of India from the School of Applied Art and Design in Zagreb were rewarded with certificates handed over by Ambassador Srivastava. Embassy of India, Zagreb received in all 169 entries from six schools in six cities of Croatia in 10 days of competition. Clear sign of increasing interest about India in Croatia, including among youth.



# WEBINAR ON THE OCCASION OF RAM NAVAMI

by

Indology Department of Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb

राम नवमी के पावन अवसर पर भारतीय दूतावास के सौजन्य से भारत क्रोएशिया संबंधों को मज़बूती देते हुए वेंबिनार का आयोजन किया गया। जिसमें भारत और क्रोएशिया से विशिष्ट विद्वतजनों ने राम कथा के विश्व पटल पर बिखरे रंगों को समेटते हुए अपने वक्तव्यों से श्री राम के जीवनादर्शों की वर्तमान संदर्भों में आवश्यकता पर बल दिया। क्रोएशिया में भारत के माननीय राजदूत श्री राजकुमार श्रीवास्तव जी के नेतृत्व में आयोजित इस वेबगोष्ठी का आयोजन और संचालन जाग्रेब विश्विद्यालय में भारतीय सांस्कृतिक सम्बन्ध परिषद् की हिंदी पीठ पर नियुक्त प्रोफेसर डॉ. ज्योति शर्मा और दुतावास में योगाचार्य श्री यद्रांकों मिकलेट्स जी ने किया। वेबगोष्ठी में भारत, दिल्ली विश्विद्यालय से प्रोफेसर यामिनी गौतम जी ने वेदों, पुराणों , उपनिषद के विविध प्रसंगों का उल्लेख करते हुए वर्तमान सन्दर्भों में राम कथा के महत्त्व और राम कथा के विविध प्रसंगों की समसामयिक व्याख्या को बेहद विस्तृत फलक पर रोचक अंदाज़ में रेखांकित किया। महात्मा गांधी अंतर्राष्ट्रीय विश्विद्यालय के भूतपूर्व कुलपति रहे प्रोफेसर गिरीश्वर मिश्र जी ने बहुत सहज, ज्ञानवर्धक और मार्मिक रूप से श्री राम कथा के नाना प्रसंगों की आज के समय में आवश्यकता और उपयोगिता पर बल दिया। ज़ाग्रेब विश्विद्यालय से जाने माने भारतविद्याविद प्रोफेसर मिस्लाव येचीच जी ने बेहद निराले अंदाज़ में अत्यंत सूक्ष्म रूप से कम शब्दों में विस्तृत राम कथा को समेटते हुए गागर में सागर भरने का दिलचस्प प्रयास किया। प्रोफेसर बोरिस मार्यानोविच जी जो संस्कृत और भारतीय दर्शनशास्त्र के विद्वान हैं, उन्होंने वाल्मीकि रामायण के विविध प्रसंगों की चर्चा की। जाग्रेब विश्विद्यालय में भारतीय सांस्कृतिक सम्बन्ध परिषद् की हिंदी पीठ पर नियुक्त प्रोफेसर डॉ. ज्योति शर्मा ने विश्व पटल पर रामलीला की प्रस्तुतियों को पाँवर पाँइंट प्रेसेंटेशन के माध्यम से साझा किया और रामकथा में छिपे एकता के सूत्र और भारतीय संस्कृति के वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम के भाव को उकेरते हुए राम के जीवनादर्शों से विश्वभर में उभरे प्रभावों को साझा किया। योगाचार्य यद्रांकों जी ने राम कथा और योग की महत्ता पर बात की। माननीय राजदुत महोदय ने विषय का समाहार करते हुए कहा कि राम के जीवनादर्श पूरी दुनिया के लिए प्रेरणा सूत्र हैं। वेबिनार में भारत और क्रोएशिया के अलग अलग हिस्सों से श्रोताओं ने सक्रिय रूप से भागीदारी की। वेबिनार की सफलता पर आदरणीय राजदुत महोदय ने सभी को बधाई देते हए सबके प्रति धन्यवाद ज्ञापित किया।

The Online Lecture was held on auspicious occasion of Ram Navami and Ramayana & its significance in human life with distinguished Indian and Croatian speakers on the 21st April.



### Announcing INDIA@75 in Osijek



Since India is celebrating 75 years of Independence on 15th of August 2022, a lot of cultural and social events are already being organized to enrich a vision that India@75 represents - the path breaking initiative. It anticipates how India should be in her 75th year of independence and seeks to bring together all stakeholders including the industry, government, institutions, community groups and individuals to translate the vision into a reality. The core message is - Indians want to imagine a new India that is modern, socially equitable, fair and transparent, an India full of opportunities and they want to work hard to make it a reality.

On behalf of this initiative a flower arrangement was placed in one of the most beautiful parks in the city of Osijek – Sakuntala Park. Among the most interesting episodes in the art history of Osijek from the 19th century can undoubtedly be the installation of a sculpture of the Indian mythological queen Sakuntala. It was installed in 1892 in Le Maitre Park in the almost undeveloped area between Capuchin Street in the West, Fortress in the East, Jäger Street in South and the Drava River in the North at the time, which soon becomes one of the city's most important parks / squares.

The legend of Sakuntala was dramatized around the 4th century AD by one of India's greatest writers, Kalidas. Thanks to him, this story became one of the common pieces of Indian cultural history. Through English translation of Kalidasa's text, Sakuntala entered European art in the late 18th century and during the 19th century. Numerous literary works, operas and works of fine art with the theme of this Indian queen were created. The reasons for choosing Sakuntala as a theme for public sculpture in Osijek undoubtedly lies in the complex ethno-confessional mosaic and the turbulent political scene of the city. At the end of the 19th century Osijek was a very multinational and multi-confessional city with a very high share of German, Hungarian and Jewish population. Sakuntala park did not belong to any of Osijek's large national, religious and / or political groups, neither by religion nor by national origin. Monuments or parks dedicated to prominent individuals from any ethno-confessional group would provoke opposition from part of the population, so a sufficiently universal motif from Far Eastern mythology and art was chosen that could not bother anyone. The key role in ordering the sculpture was played by the senior teacher Bogdan Penjić and captain Petar von Modesti, who was a Head of Society in charge for Kalidasa's drama or one of the afore mentioned operas. Osijek's Sakuntala sculpture is a copy of the work of the Berlin sculptor Gottwald Kuhse (originally executed in 1881), which was produced in terracotta by the Ernst March Söhne factory, Thonwaarenfabrik from Charlottenburg, Berlin.

### India-Croatia Sports Cooperation was the Highlight of July 2021

Unique gathering of Sports stars from India & Croatia was held in Zagreb on 2 July 2021 with Indian legend Chess Grandmaster Vishwanathan Anand, Croatian Ace Shooter Petar Gorša and Indian Shooting Team which was preparing in Croatia for Tokyo Olympics 2021.



# Announcing INDIA@75 #IndiaAt75 #AzadiKaAmritMahotsav #AmritMahotsav

INDIA@75 open-air painting exhibition in front of National Theatre of Zagreb with the amazing work of Art & Heart by young talented artists of School of Applied Arts & Design in Zagreb. The next exhibition will be from 4<sup>th</sup> August onwards.



### Croatia congratulates India on the 75th Independence Day





9:13 PM - Aug 14, 2021 - Twitter for iPhone

275 Retweets 9 Quote Tweets 2,782 Likes



Thanks a lot H. E. @grlicradman for your wishes on India's 75th Independence Day. @MVEP\_hr



Thank you Foreign Ministers and Foreign Ministries for your best wishes on the 75th year of our Independence.

Committed to strengthening our partnerships...

findianclassical dance





More than 75 monuments, including Meštrović Pavilion in Zagreb, across the globe lit up in Indian tricolour to celebrate 75th Independence Day! Mestrović Pavillion is an art gallery and an architectural masterpiece created by the famous Croatian sculptor Ivan Meštrović in 1938. The tweet from H.E.Mr. Goran Grlić Radman, Minister of European and External Affairs got over 2700 likes and 280 retweets.



I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to build the bridge of understanding and appreciation between india and Croatis through classical indian Odissi dance!!!
Years of sweat, pain, exhilaration and practice, practice, moding body and mind to became an instrument of immortal art !!!
Thank you India for broadening my mind, heart and knowledge beyond my wildest dreams. You truly are the Mother of art and culture!
### Indiadnet period on the control of the control

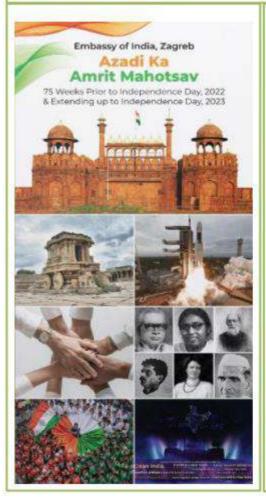
### National Day Reception on the occasion of 75th Independence Day

Ambassador Raj Kumar Srivastava hosted the National Day Reception on the occasion of 75th Independence Day at Zagreb with the Guest of Honour H.E. Mr. Gordan Grlić Radman, Deputy Speaker of Croatian Parliament Dr. Željko Reiner, representing Speaker of the Parliament H.E. Mr. Gordan Jandroković, the former President of Croatia H.E. Prof. Ivo Josipović, the Member of the Prime Minister's Scientific Advisory Board and the Professor Emeritius of the National Forensic Science University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat Dr. Dragan Primorac and Members of Parliaments H.E. Ms. Martina Vlašić Iljkić, H.E. Mr. Ivan Ćelić and H.E. Mr. Zvane Brumnić gracing the occasion. In all 100 guests participated from diplomatic Corps and friends of India from academic, business and cultural fields along with Indian community representatives. Two outstanding Croatian artists performed the Indian classical dances showcasing the Indian cultural richness while the paintings on India@75 made by young artists of Croatia were displayed for the Guests. A glimpse of the evening is presented below.



### #AmritMahotsav celebration: "India Fest 21"

"Over the next two years, we will celebrate 75 years of Indian independence under the great initiative of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav". On the occasion of the anniversary celebration, numerous cultural and entertainment events will be organized, which will also be held in Croatia, thus connecting the two countries - Croatia and India. In this context, Mr. Hanibal Salvaro's work (organizer of "India Fest 21" exhibition) in creating the bridge and the link between the two countries has been remarkable. The exhibition "India Fest 21" is in a way part of the "Azadika Amrit Mahotsav" initiative, precisely because of the theme and context it provides to its visitors. The exhibition combines different art forms: digital art, haiku, painting, photography, poetry in one very impressive way. Likewise, the presence of our dear friends from the Ministries, colleagues from diplomacy and other government bodies indicates how such art forms generate interest. We will be happy to improve and establish partnerships through various projects with organizations, institutions and artists so that such positive initiatives and events will continue in the future", Ambassador Raj Kumar Srivastava.





### 75th Independence Day: Flag Hoisting ceremony

Zagreb witnessed a pleasant & proud celebration of #AzadiKaAmritMahotsav, with 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.



# Cest is d Best - international street festival in Zagreb

celebrating

# #AzadiKaAmritMahotsav #AmritMahotsav

Embassy of India, Zagreb took part from the 20th to 22nd August in the Zagreb Street Festival Cest is d'best with local Croatian Dance artists, yoga session and movie projection. The attendees witnessed vibrant and vivid India dance performance celebrating #AmritMahotsav in the central green park of Zrinjevac, which is located next to the building of Ministry of External and European Affairs of Croatia. The dancer Anuradha Antonija Karuza & Apsaradha dance ensemble performed Indian classical & modern dance celebrating the 75th Independence Day of India for over 100 spectators. On the 22nd Jadranko Miklec held a Yoga Session at the green space of Zrinjevac park. High attendance, with over 100 attendees was also visible during 2021 closing program of the 25th Cest is d Best-international Street festival in Zagreb with the projection under the stars of Indian movie "Piku".



### HINDI DIWAS #AmritMahotsav

Hindi Diwas or National Hindi Day is celebrated every year on September 14 to mark the adaptation of Hindi (written in Devanagari script) as the official language by the Constituent Assembly on September 14, 1949. It is to be noted that Mahatma Gandhi called Hindi the language of the masses. The Father of the Nation also talked about making Hindi the national language of the nation. Notwithstanding the fact that linguistic topics, primarily those in the domain of Indo-European linguistics, have been an integral part of different studies at the University of Zagreb from its earliest stages, institutional organization of the Department began in 1959. The Department then briefly bore the name of the Department of General Linguistics and Comparative Literature, and the head of the Department was Professor Ivo Hergešić. The same year saw the arrival of Professor Radoslav Katičić whose areas of interest, in addition to linguistics, included Indology, i.e. Sanskrit.



एक छोटी सी झलक हिंदी दिवस २०२१ के समारोह से जो जागरे विश्वविद्यालय के इंडोलोज़ी विभाग के साथ भारतीय राजदूतावा २८ सितम्बर को आयोजित किया। भारतीय सांस्कृतिक कला पां द्वारा प्रायोजित हिंदी चेयर के पद पर विगत तीन वर्षों से कार्यरत ज्योति शर्मा को स्नेहपूर्वक विदाई देते हुए विश्वविद्यालय के छात्र कई मौलिक रचनायें प्रस्तुत की। कार्यक्रम का प्रारंभ हुआ एक पचास वर्ष प्राचीन हिंदी प्रार्थना गान से लक्ष्मी श्रीवास्तव द्वारा। इंडोलोज़ी विभाग के सबसे विरष्ठ प्राध्यापक मिसलाव येजिच ने भारत के आज़ादी के अमृत महोत्सव के अंतर्गत दो विषयों - विश् युरु भारत एवं भारत की बहुमूल्य सांस्कृतिक धरोहर - पर अपने विचार प्रस्तुत किए। हमने यह भी स्मरण किया की यूरोप में सब पहली संस्कृत व्याकरण की पुस्तक लिखने वाले फ़िलिप वेज़दिर (१७४८-१८०६) क्रोएशा निवासी थे।



# 75th Independence day of India celebration in the city of Samobor

### #AzadiKaAmritMahotsav #AmritMahotsav

Embassy of India, Zagreb took part on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September at the #AzaadiKaAmritMahotsav celebration with screening of animation program which was held in the City of Samobor for the Djeca za bolji svijet/Children for a Better World, short yoga session by Yoga in Daily Life Zagreb & Amrit Mahotsav quiz offered insightful information's for the enrichment of children's knowledge.



### Mahatma Gandhi's 152nd birth anniversary

Mahatma Gandhi's 152nd birth anniversary was celebrated in Zagreb with the presence of H E Mr. Ivo Josipovic, former President of Croatia and other friends of India. We also remembered Second PM Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri on his 117th birth anniversary.



### Mahatma Gandhi's 152nd birth anniversary Napredak Cultural centre

The Croatian-Indian Society, the Croatian Cultural Society Napredak and the Croatian Pan-European Union marked the 152th anniversary of the birth of Stjepan Radić and Mahatma Gandhi by presenting the reissue of the book "Our Gandhi" by the French writer Roman Rolland, translated into Croatian by Josip Vandekar and published in 1924. Radić's Slavic bookstores in Zagreb. Ambassador Srivastava, Academician Mislav Ježić, prof. dr. sc. Dražen Vikić-Topić, vice president of HKD Napredak talked about the book. This important anniversary will be celebrated in the Saturday 2 October 2021 in the Napredak Cultural Center in Zagreb. The event was held with the support of the President of the Republic of Croatia and the Embassy of India in Zagreb.



### Seminar on the occasion of National Unity Day (31st Oct) of India

Seminar was held on the occasion of National Unity Day (31st Oct) of India 'Unity in Diversity' - Multiculturalism & Secularism in India's Society: Ethnic, Religious & Linguistic Diversity with H.E. Mrs. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, 4th President of Croatia, Director General H.E. Mr. Dinesh K Patnaik of Indian Council For Cultural Relations, Ambassador Srivastava & other speakers. Seminar was held on the 26 October at the Cultural Centre Napredak in Zagreb.

Ambassador of India to Croatia, Raj Srivastava: "From the perspective of philosophical foundation of Indian thoughts as said by Swami Vivekanand, the diversity is actually the manifestation of inherent unity - and therefore one should not be surprised at Unity in Diversity of India. Sardar Patel did a great service to the nation by political uniting the country post-independence; a fitting tribute to him to celebrate National Unity Day on his birth anniversary".

LE. Mrs. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, 4th President of Croatia: "India's success in sustaining its unity while cherishing its unparalleled diversity is a great hope and model for the rest of the world. While we refer to Flag of India as an emerging economy, in many ways India has already emerged as a world power".

♣ H.E. Mr. Dinesh K Patnaik, Director General of Indian Council for Cultural Relations: "India doesn't manage its diversity, rather it creates conditions and continuous interactions to flourish it's diversity. When you see percentages in India, it might not give you the magnitude - 0.77% Buddhist population counts to 8.4 million people. Hindu religion by itself is not a uniform religion but full of its own shades of diversities".

Mrs. Ruzica Cicak Chand, PhD, Professor of Indian & Buddhist Studies/Scientific Adviser at IMIN talked about the relationship between secularism & multiculturalism in contemporary India.

Ars. Marijana Janjic, PhD, Professor of Indian linguistic, talked about the preservation of linguistic diversity in India.

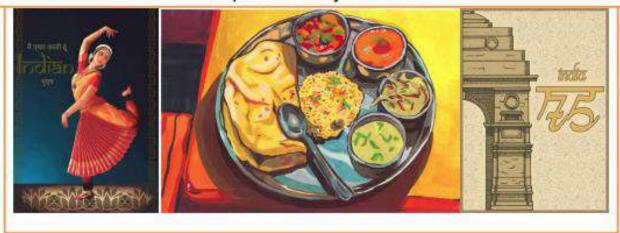


### Glimpses of "Ambassador's Cup" cricket match between India11 vs World11

As part of #AzadiKaAmritMahotsav celebrations, Embassy of India, Zagreb in association with Croatian Cricket Alliance, organized "Ambassador's Cup" cricket match between India11 vs World11 in Zagreb on the 10<sup>th</sup> October. Players from different countries based in Croatia participated in the match. Amazing commitment to cricket on a cloudy day in Croatia.



Submissions of the Zagreb Design School ŠPUD for the ICCR Online Poster and Painting Competition 2021 "My idea of India"



#### DIWALI DAY

Ambassador Srivastava & Svibor Jancic, Zagreb City Assembly Representative, participated at the Govardhan Puja by ISKCON at Zrinjevac park, Zagreb. A heartwarming celebration of community to welcome a prosperous new year.



Diwali - Festival of Light



Diwali is celebrated as the largest festival of the year in India and has also spread by way of the Indian diaspora to be celebrated in countries across the globe. Diwalf's date is determined by the India calendar and changes every year, ranging from October to November, It is observed on the 15th day of the 8th month (the month of Kartik) in India's calendar. Diwali is derived from Sanskrit word Deepavali meaning 'Line of Lamps'. It is one of the most important festivals in India, marking a new year, and often compared to Christmas in the West. Something that is not commonly known overseas about Diwali, though, is that this is not just a Hindu holiday, but is also celebrated within Jainism and Sikhism. During the festival, diyas are lit and placed in rows along the parapets of temples and houses and set adrift on rivers and streams. Homes are decorated, and floors inside and out are covered with rangoli, consisting of elaborate designs made of colored rice, sand, or flower petals. The doors and windows of houses are kept open in the hope that Lakshmi will find her way inside and bless the residents with wealth and success. Diwali is celebrated over five days. The first day, known as Dhanteras, is dedicated to cleaning homes and purchasing small items of gold. Lakshmi is worshiped on that day. The second day, called Naraka Chaturdashi or Choti Diwali, commemorates Krishna's destruction of Narakasura; prayers are also offered for the souls of ancestors. On the third day, Lakshmi Puja, families seek blessings from Lakshmi to ensure their prosperity; light diyas, candles, and fireworks; and visit temples. It is the main day of the Diwali festival. The fourth day, known as Goverdha Puja, Balipratipada, or Annakut, commemorating Krishna's defeat of Indra, the king of the gods, is also the first day of Karttika and the start of the new year in the Vikrama (Hindu) calendar. Merchants perform religious ceremonies and open new account books. The fifth day, called Bhai Dooj, Bhai Tika, or Bhai Bij, celebrates the bond between brothers and sisters. On that day sisters pray for the success and well-being of their brothers. Diwali is generally a time for visiting, exchanging gifts, wearing new clothes, feasting, feeding the poor, and setting off fireworks (though such displays have been restricted to limit noise and other environmental pollution). Gambling, especially in the form of card games, is encouraged as a way of ensuring good luck in the coming year and in remembrance of the games of dice played by Shiva and Parvati on Mount Kailasa or similar contests between Radha and Krishna. Ritually, in honor of Lakshmi, the female player always wins.

Submissions of the Zagreb Design School ŠPUD for the ICCR Online Poster and Painting Competition 2021 "My idea of India"

Beautiful collection of works for the Poster and Painting Competition of Indian Council For Cultural Relations "My idea of India", among several schools including the School of Applied Art and Design in Zagreb. About 60 entries of artistic expression included images and impressions of India that comes to the minds of young artists from Croatia.



# "Research projects in Smart, Precision & Predictive Agriculture: Exploring new areas on India-Croatia Cooperation"

Lecture "Research projects in Smart, Precision & Predictive Agriculture: Exploring new areas on India-Croatia Cooperation" with Ambassador Raj Srivastava, Prof Nedeljko Perić - Director of Innovation Centre Nikola Tesla, Prof Vinko Lesic of FER, University of Zagreb, & Matija Zulj, CEO of Agrivi Food Tech presented a smart, resilient & integrated approach in agriculture. It was highlighted how the Croatian Tech efforts in agriculture could create mutually beneficial opportunities as IN aims to use Digital technologies such as AI, Block chain, Remote Sensing, GIS & Robotics

to bring efficiency & sustainability and double the farmers' incomes.



Embassy of India, Zagreb is organising an #AzadiKaAmritMahotsav online quiz on "Dekho Apna Desh" - "See Your Country"





# "The Indian Way to the Stars"

The Lecture "The Indian Way to the Stars" held in the Astronomical center of Rijeka celebrated the "Vishwa Guru Bharat" pillar of #AzadiKaAmritMahotsav, Prof Marin Karuza, from University of Rijeka made a very detailed presentation of scientific wisdom of about 5000 years from Indian civilization in the field of astronomy and mathematics as well as emphasized the importance of Indian space program, praising the efforts of ISRO - Indian Space Research Organisation, for the benefit of the society.



### Lecture "Srinivasa Ramanujan like a Bridge over the Ocean"

Croatia India Society and Mathematicians from University of Zagreb celebrated 134th birth anniversary of India's Genius Srinivas Ramanujan (1887-1920). This was also the part of #AzadikaAmritMahotsav with the focus on themes of "unsung heroes" & "VishwaGuru Bharat". While remembering Ramanujan we could also collate information on at least three generations of Indian and Croatia mathematicians who have worked together in past six decades on themes originated by Ramanujan and Harish-Chandra.



# Presentation by Prof. Tomislav Sikić, University of Zagreb, projected during the lecture "Srinivasa Ramanujan like a Bridge over the Ocean" India-Croatia connections in the field of Mathematics



#### 552 birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji & the 400 birth anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji

Croatian Indian Society, in cooperation with India in Croatia (Embassy of India, Zagreb), celebrated the 552 birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji and the 400 birth anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji at Napredak Cultural Centre, Zagreb on 1/12/21. The programme started with a video message of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, followed by Ambassador's remarks and playing of Shabad Kirtan Songs.







### The 73rd Republic Day Flag hoisting Ceremony

On the occasion of 73rd Republic Day of India, the National Flag was unfurled by Ambassador of India to Croatia Raj Kumar Srivastava at the Chancery premises amidst a gathering of Indian nationals and friends of India. This was followed by singing of the National Anthem and the reading of Hon'ble President of India's Address to the Nation.



#### The 73rd Republic Day Reception

At the 73rd Republic Day Reception hosted by Ambassador of India to Croatia, Minister of State, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, H. E. Mrs. Meenakashi Lekhi gave a video message to the Indians and Friends of India in Croatia and highlighted the strong people to people bonding's between India & Croatia which was showcased in a diverse Indian cultural program by Croatian friends on the occasion. State Secretary at the Ministry of External Affairs H. E. Mr. Frano Matusić spoke about strengthening partnership between India & Croatia as we celebrate together 30 years of our diplomatic relationship in 2022. In 90 minutes, program, an ideal empowering day experience was packed, starting with rejuvenating "Sun salutation - Surya Namaskar" (#750millionsuryanamaskar), and ending with calming and bilissful "Meditation". In between, three outstanding Croatian dancers presented Unity in Diversity of India through Kathak from North India, Bharatnatyam from South India, & Odissi from East India, yet underlining the unity of devotion, hard work, concentration, & knowledge in their diverse performances. 100 esteemed guests graced the occasion including Parliamentarians, Former President, Ministers, Ambassadors, CEOs, Entrepreneurs, Artists, Academicians, Journalists, and Indians in Croatia. Two videos one from Mumbai from famous Indian choreographer Terence Lewis (who would be visiting Croatia later this year to showcase colors of India through contemporary Indian Dance) and other from Split from famous Croatian singer Goran Karan (who composed a beautiful "One world one Family" song for the occasion) were the surprise attractions in the evening which brought out the spirit of month long #AzadiKaAmritMahotsav celebrations in Croatia in Jan-Feb 2022.



# Celebrating National Youth Day as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav on the thematic pillar 'Vishwa Guru Bharat: Swami Vivekananda'

Celebrating National Youth Day as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav on the thematic pillar "Vishwa Guru Bharat: Swami Vivekananda' at Dvorana kulture 'Joga u svakodnevnom životu'. Ambassador Srivastava expressed that it is heartening to see the youth in #Rijeka to find wisdom from a spiritual leader who erased the boundaries between Western & Eastern culture. Other speakers included Ms. Nada Dabo, Tourist guide from Rijeka, explaining the essential vision by Swami Vivekananda of unity for all religions while Prof. Lavoslav Čaklović, explained about developing self-awareness in understanding our environment. #AzadiKaAmritMahotsav. Watch the video glimpses of the event at: <a href="https://youtu.be/lxzSqEb9ehl">https://youtu.be/lxzSqEb9ehl</a>





### Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav on the thematic pillars of Ideas, Achievements, Resolves & Independence 2.0 with the theme "Al in the service of mankind

Celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav on the thematic pillars of Ideas, Achievements, Resolves & Independence 2.0 with the theme "Al in the service of mankind". India-Croatia R&D partnership in the field of Al was highlighted. Ambassador Srivastava mentioned the 75@75 India's Al Journey. Presentations by 1. Prof. Dina Simunic, FER, University of Zagreb spoke about "Some Important Aspects of the Smart City Design", 2. Prof. Tanuja Satish Dhope from Bharati Vidyapeeth spoke about "A Comparative Analysis of Air Pollution Monitoring & Prediction using Various Machine Learning Techniques for Well-being of Humankind", and 3. Prof. Ashok M Kanthe from Mahatma Gandhi Mission's College of Engineering & Technology spoke about "Analysis of Secure System against Cyber-Attacks using Machine Learning Techniques in Networks".









# Message from Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi in connection with 75 postcards from Students of Zagreb based School of Design and Applied Arts



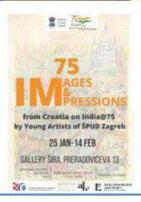
#### PM NARENDRA MODI:

The excitement of celebrations of 75 years of India's independence is not only there in India but abroad as well. I received 75 postcards from India's friend country Croatia. Students of Zagreb based School of Design and Applied Arts have sent 75 cards and their best wishes on 75 years of our independence. I extend my thanks from all of you Indian citizens to Croatia and it's people."

#### "75 images and impression from Croatia on India@75 by Young Artists of ŠPUD Zagreb"

Opening of exhibition "75 images and impression from Croatia on India@75 by Young Artists of ŠPUD Zagreb" at Šira gallery under the initiative #AzadiKaAmritMahotsav. The Curtain raiser was held with the attendance of Mr. Filip Pintaric, principal of ŠPUD Zagreb, Ambassador of India to Croatia, Mr. Raj Kumar Srivastava, Mr. Tomislav Buntak, Dean of Academy of Fine Arts, Uni. Zagreb, Mr. Svibor Jancic, member of Assembly the city of Zagreb, Lidija Zozoli, representative of the Ministry of Culture and Media, Croatia. The exhibition is part of the one-month celebration from 25th January until 28th February, 2022 in Croatia (Zagreb, Dubrovnik and Rijeka) under the initiative #AzadiKaAmritMahotsav.















# Month long Celebration of #AzadiKaAmritMahotsav in Dubrovnik, Zagreb, Split, Rijeka, Crikvenica, Opatija, Samobor and Pula

# Cultural Evening Celebrating India-Croatia Friendship on the Occasion of 30 years of Diplomatic Relationship

An Indian Cultural Evening in City of Split to celebrate Amrit Mahotsav and India-Croatia 30 Years of Diplomatic Relationship. Mayor of Split, Mr. Ivica Puljak graced the occasion. Goran Karan presented his new composition "Only Love Can" inspired from India's wisdom. Bhakti Marga Croatia presented suryanamaskar and meditation. The three Indian classical dance forms were presented by three outstanding Croatian artists who have been inspired by their long connections with India. The evening was a clear celebration of India-Croatia friendship.



#### Opening of the Rijeka part of exhibition "The expression of young artists through 75 images and impressions of

Opening of the Rijeka part of exhibition "The expression of young artists through 75 images and impressions of India@75" from the School of Applied Arts & Design, Zagreb at Croatian Cultural Center in Sušak. The ceremony was attended by Ambasador Srivastava, Mr. Edvin Liverić, director of HKD Sušak, City of Rijeka, Head of the Department of Culture, Mr. Ivan Šarar, prof. dr. sc. Gordan Jelenić, Vice-Rector for Science and Arts, University of Rijeka and Mr. Branko Cerovac, curator of the exhibition. The exhibition will remain open until the 26th February. In response to 75 postcards of these paintings received by Prime Minister of India, he said: "The excitement of celebrations of 75 years of India's independence is not only there in India but abroad as well. I received 75 postcards from India's friend country Croatia. Students of Zagreb based School of Design and Applied Arts have sent 75 cards and their best wishes on 75 years of our independence. I extend my thanks from all of you Indian citizens to Croatia and it's people."



Ayurvedic Nutrition for better health was the theme of the evening in Zagreb organized by Bhakti Marga Croatia.

Ambassador Srivastava graced the occasion as part of month-long #AmritMahotsav festival in Croatia.



### 24-hour Drawing Marathon by Lalit Kala Akademi, India and Academy of Fine Arts,

A great beginning was made on 18 February 2022 with a wonderful mini marathon of paintings between India and Croatia, celebrating 30 years of bilateral relationship. Artists from Lalit Kala Akademi, India and Academy of Fine Arts, University of Zagreb, joined hands together breaching the geographical distance by using the digital technology and created superb artworks bringing the youth of two countries together in the field of art. This beginning would work as a strong foundation for future cooperation between two institutions which has great promise and aspirational projects already under discussions.



Embassy of India, Zagreb celebrated the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation - ITEC Day evening with 25 guests and Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation - ITEC alumnus on 10th February 2022. Many ideas and projects in the pipeline were presented which are being spearheaded by the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation - ITEC alumni from Croatia in the field of R&D, innovation, traditional systems and People-to-People cultural connections. The Directors of prestigious Institut Ruder Bošković, Innovation Centre Nikola Tesla and Indology Department of the University of Zagreb spoke on the occasion to highlight the growing India-Croatian partnership in these important years of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and the establishment of 30 years of India-Croatia Diplomatic relationship.



On the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, celebrating 75 years of Indian independence, the Embassy of India, Zagreb in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Croatia, the Croatian-Indian Society, the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), together with the City of Pula and Samobor, the Tourist Board of Zagreb, Pula, Samobor, Istrian National Theater, Samobor Open University and KNAP theatre presented performances by Paaradox from India, a group for contemporary and artistic performances that includes experienced dancers from Terence Lewis Contemporary Dance Company.

Premiere & 1st performance of the Croatian tour of "Indradhanush-Rainbow" brought by Terence Lewis and his group was held in Samobor with the presence of Ms. Petra Škrobot, Mayor of Samobor, Croatian MPs and senior officials and 150 guests. The performance brought to the stage the Artistic Interpretation of 7 colors of the Indradhanush (Rainbow) - each distinct yet beautifully woven together with Tradition, Modernity, Unity in Diversity.



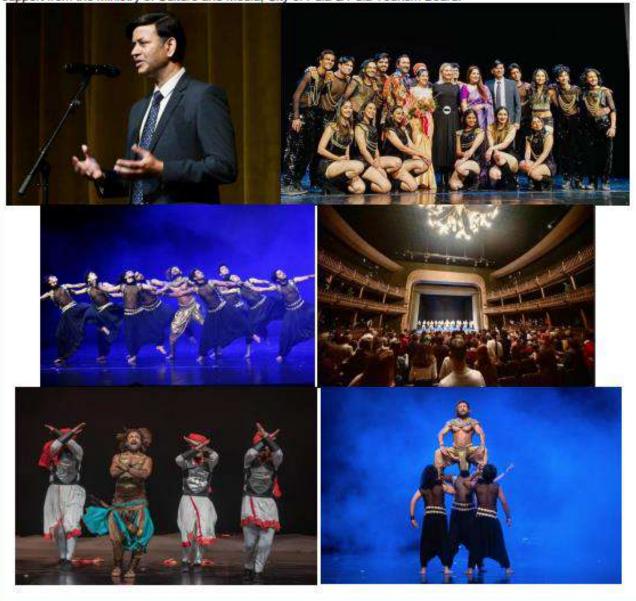
Mr. Terence Lewis and his group arrived in the City of Samobor on 20/02/22 for weeklong stay and performances Samobor. Mr. Lewis, Art Director Ms. Mahrukh Dumasia and Ambassador Srivastava were received by the Mayor Petra Škrobot at the Samobor Carnival.



Month long Amrit Mahotsav in Croatia saw in Zagreb it's most awaited performance on 24/02/2022 at Theatre KNAP by Terence Lewis's Amazing, Blissful, Charismatic, Dedicated & Energetic group PARADOX. Indian colours were vividly displayed in the unique choreography of Mahrukh Dumasia "Indradhanush - Rainbow". 250 guests did time & space travel to India sitting in Zagreb in 90 minutes of super class show by 20 member group. Thanks to the Indian Council For Cultural Relations for sending such a class apart group to strengthen P2P connections between India and Croatia as we celebrate #AmritMahotsav in Croatia.



One month long Amrit Mahotsav celebrations in Croatia which began on 25/01/22, came to an end on 26/02/22 with the spectacular final performance of the Croatian tour of Terence Lewis's super-talented contemporary dance group "PARADOX" in INK – Istrian National Theatre with over 300 audience experiencing India for 90 minutes through emotion, energy & enthusiasm filled choreography of "Indradhanush-Rainbow" by creative director Mahrukh Dumasia. The visit of the group was sponsored by Indian Council For Cultural Relations, and with great support from the Ministry of Culture and Media, City of Pula & Pula Tourism Board.



Enthusiastic participation at the Dance Training Workshop by Terence Lewis and the members of his group PARADOX with the students of the Silvija Hercigonja Art Dance School Zagreb held on February 23. The 50 years old "Silvija Hercigonja Art Dance School" is one of the most prestigious art dance school that provides pre-school preparatory and primary education in classical ballet and contemporary dance, as well as secondary education for the profession of stage dancer.



### **CELEBRATION OF WORLD HIND! DAY**

विश्व हिंदी दिवस समारोह 28 मार्च 2022 को भारतीय दूतावास के सहयोग से जाग्रेब विश्वविद्यालय के भाषायिजान और दर्शनशास्त्र संकाय के इंडोलॉजी विभाग में आयोजित किया गया। संकाय के डीन, विभागाध्यक्ष, कई प्रोफेसरों, विभिन्न वर्षों के छात्र, भारतीय समुदाय के सदस्यों ने 90 मिनट के लंबे कार्यक्रम में भाग लिया जहां हिंदी में गीतों के सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम के साथ हिंदी में कुछ मूल कार्य प्रस्तुत किए गए। जिस प्रकार भारत अपनी स्वतंत्रता के 75 वर्ष मना रहा है, उसी प्रकार भारत विज्ञान विभाग भी अपनी स्थापना के 60 वर्ष मना रहा है।

Vishwa Hindi Diwas celebrations were organized on 28 March 2022 at the Indology department of the Faculty of Linguistics & Philosophy of the University of Zagreb with the support of Embassy of India. Dean of the Faculty, Head of the Department, many professors, students of different years, Indian community members participated in the 90 minutes long event where some original works in Hindi were presented along with a cultural program of songs in Hindi. As India is celebrating 75 years of its independence, Indology Department is also celebrating 60 years of its establishment.



#### Celebration of #AzadiKaAmritMahotsav

# Marking International Women's Day 2022: "Women @ the Heart of Health & Happiness"

International Women's Day2022 was celebrated with 5Cs of Culture, Customs, Conversation, Creativity & Cuisine and the main theme of "Women @ the Heart of Health & Happiness" with participation of 75 women of substance in the City of Zagreb on the 8/3/22 at Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing (FER) under our broader Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations in Croatia. The occasion was graced by the presence of Mrs. Tomasević, and Dean of FER, where a unique Indian Sarees Fashion show, Music & Dances, Talks & Practice of Yoga & Ayurveda, and Women at the centre of all this was presented in most creative way. Mrs. Lakshmi Srivastava gave a talk on "Unsung Heroines of Indian Freedom Movement" from the comic book released by MoS Mrs. Meenakshi Lekhi on 75 such inspirational women in Delhi in January 2022.



# Inauguration ceremony of the India corner at ŠPUD, Zagreb

At the inauguration ceremony, Ambassador Srivastava opened the India Corner for the students of ŠPUD, Zagreb. The corner will be enriched with 75 books in the field of India's literature, philosophy and culture. These books will inspire the young artists to create new works and to express their vision of New India. The mentioned initiative is a continuation of the cooperation with the ŠPUD school, which already in January 2022 gifted 75 congratulation postcards to the Prime Minister of India and to the people of India. In response to the 75 postcards of these paintings received by Prime Minister of India, he said, "The excitement of celebrations of 75 years of India's independence is not only there in India but abroad as well. I received 75 postcards from India's friend country Croatia. Students of Zagreb based School of Design and Applied Arts have sent 75 cards and their best wishes on 75 years of our independence. I extend my thanks from all of you Indian citizens to Croatia and it's people."





# Cultural Evening celebrating India-Croatia Friendship on the occasion of 30 years of Diplomatic Relationship

A festive cultural program was held in Rijeka in the Hall of Culture "Yoga in Daily Life" commemorating 30 years of diplomatic relations between India and Croatia and 75 years of independence of the Republic of India. The program was attended by Indian Ambassador Raj Kumar Srivastava, Mayor of Rijeka Mr Filipović, Mayor of Senj Mr. Tomljanović, Professor of the University of Rijeka Prof Jelenić, President of the Croatian-Indian Friendship Society, Mr. Zlamalik and almost 200 guests in all. Traditional Indian wear and dance directed by Mrs Lakshmi Srivastava and Croatian folk wear from different parts of Croatia were presented with the performance of the Folklore ensemble "Zora" from Opatija. The singer Goran Karan also performed, and at the end, socializing and tasting of traditional vegetarian Indian and Croatian delicacies gave the perfect end to a memorable evening.



# HOLI Celebration with participation of Ambassador Srivastava & Mrs Srivastava at Iskcon Zagreb Nova Jaladuta temple





# INTERNATIONAL MOTHER EARTH DAY

Croatian Cultural Center Napredak, Bogovićeva 1/I, Zagreb April 6th, 2022, 6 pm

The Earth Anthem, Indian Poet-Diplomat Abhay Kumar

Welcome Speech, 6pm



H.E. Raj Kumar Srivastava

Ambassador of India to Croatia

From Velebit to Himalaya



Stipe Božić
Alpinist, writer, photographer,
cameraman, film maker

Obligatory to wear protective facemasks. Please confirm your arrival to e-mail: hrvatsko.indijsko.drustvo@gmail.com

# India was partner country for the first time of PLACE2GO International Tourism Fair: Opening of the Place2go International Tourism Fair

In the presence of H. E. Ms. Nikolina Brnjac, Tourism & Sports Minister of Croatia, and other dignitaries, the official opening of the Place2go International Tourism Fair took place on 8 April 2022 at Arena Zagreb with India as the partner country. Ambassador Srivastava highlighted the rapid developments that are taking place in New India as India celebrates 75 years of its independence – Amrit Mahotsav. He also mentioned that "A journey to India is usually a journey within oneself", as acknowledged by many visitors to India including Croatian friends like Stipe Bozic, Goran Karan, and Igor Štimac.



# India was partner country for the first time of PLACE2GO International Tourism Fair from 8-10 April in Arena Center, Zagreb.

Place2go, International Tourism Fair 2022 on 9th April brought the feel of India at Arena Zagreb with Talk Show, Saree Fashion Show, & Bollywood dance performances. You could get a glimpse of the Culture, Costumes, Cuisine, Cinema & Celebrations of India, which will prepare you for your next journey to India.



# The India-Croatia Bilateral Startup Bridge established on 20/12/21 was presented at LEAP Croatia summit together with HAMAG-BICRO

The India-Croatia Bilateral Startup Bridge established on December 2021 was also presented at the LEAP Croatia Summit together with HAMAG-BICRO. In his address, Ambassador Srivastava spoke about the potential of creating stronger connections between the two innovative ecosystems that played a crucial role in the past 30 years of our diplomatic relations, and are bound to play an even important role in the next 30 years by connecting our future innovative generations by working together global in projects.

Find out more about how to participate in the India-Croatian startup challenge and win the grand prize fund estimated at \$43,000: https://hamagbicro.hr/hamag-bicro-i-een-na-leap-summitu-2022/

 Winners will be announced on the 14th of June 2022. event organized by HAMAG-BICRO and supported by Startup India and the Embassy of India, Zagreb.



### Winners of the India-Croatia Startup challenge

India's educational startup CIREE EDUTECH LLP is the winner of the India-Croatia Startup challenge organized by HAMAG-BICRO, Startup India, and the Embassy of India, Zagreb supported by Infobip, HexGn, and Končar. CiREE is a web platform for skills acquisition, training, retraining, and employment. The challenges received more than 300



The India-Croatia Startup Bridge challenge winners were announced with the presence of Ambassador Srivastava, Mr. Deepak Bagla, CEO of Invest India, & representatives of HAMAG-BICRO, Startup India, Infobip & HexGn. During the function, India-Croatia's cooperation in innovation for the global good was highlighted as the most cherished outcome. Over 300 submissions and 13 winners in 50 days of challenge point to the vast potential that exists between India and Croatia.



Deepak Bagla: "The Startup challenge, which has collected over 300 solutions in the field of innovations, shows the opportunities for Croatian Startups in New India". Ambassador Srivastava: "As two democracies India and Croatia believe in empowering people and the success of this startup challenge entirely belongs to the people involved in this initiative. The three Ss of Speed, Scale, & Sensitivity were also witnessed in full glory during the 50 days of this inaugural challenge."

Find out more at the following LINK.

# "India in Novigrad"

Day of India was marked in the city of Novigrad on the 19th of June at Museum Lapidarium. The day started with a yoga session at 10 am and finished at 9 pm sunset with the opening of the Shakti exhibition by artist Ms. Kristina Kamala Babina and a Bharatanatyam dance performance by Bhakti Devi at Muzej-Museo Lapidarium. Ambassador Srivastava and Mr. Anteo Milos, Mayor of Novigrad attended the functions.





#### 161st birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore Jayanti

The Lecture on the 161st birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore Jayanti was held with the participation of Ambassador Srivastava, Mr. Mislav Ježić, Croatian Indologist and Philosopher was held on June 3 at the Croatian Cultural Centre Napredak in Zagreb.







#### Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

### "Development & specific features of India-Croatia Tourism"

Ambassador Srivastava, Mr. Kristjan Staničić, Director of Croatian Tourism Board & Mr. Subhash Verma, Global Consultant Tourism Hospitality Founder of Travel Wellness & Beyond presented their views in the special lecture "Development & specific features of India-Croatia Tourism" on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June at the Cultural Center Napredak in Zagreb. Ambassador highlighted the new positive developments in the Indian Tourism sector to make the experience of tourists a memorable one. Tourism is one of the prominent 3Ts of New India's globalization strategy apart from Technology & Trade.



# Place2go magazine and the Embassy of India, Zagreb present 75 destinations in India as an homage to India's 75 years of Independence





years of India's Independence

The special edition of the summer edition of the Place2Go magazine on India's 75 Tourist destinations was divided into 3 categories per 25 destinations. The northern belt of India, Central belt of India (East, West, and Southeast India), and Southern belt of India.

India's sun-kissed coastlines, peace-permeated hill stations, and breezy riversides offer a host of nutritious food, spas, yoga, detox therapies, Ayurveda, naturopathy, Vedanta, and meditation techniques, retrieved and curated from the most ancient of sciences and arts. With innumerable ways to keep both the mind and body aligned, peaceful, and in perfect health, the country is the perfect stopover to holiday at a softer paceA land resounding with the riches and glories of opulent dynasties, powerful rulers, flourishing civilizations, and profound history, India has a splendid heritage that is reflected in its architecture, monuments, arts, crafts, cultures, and even religions. While formidable forts, ancient temples, and grand palaces testify of the grandeur of times gone by, the various museums and galleries scattered across the country act as inventories of India's seamless past. Such is the magnificence of the structures in the country that UNESCO has identified several of them as heritage sites. The allure of Adventure. Scale the heights of thrill, or plummet to the depths of excitement or if you're truly daring, survey gorgeous lands and waters, while suspended in the sky. All this and more awaits you as you explore the land, water, and sky adventures in the country. From trekking, mountain biking, and mountaineering in the secluded snow-capped Himalayas to surfing, rafting, scuba diving, and snorkeling, there is a multitude of options for thrill seekers. Home to several royal dynasties that enjoyed an opulent and ostentatious lifestyle, India is a land steeped in history. Over the years, age-old cultures, traditions, arts, and practices have been blending seamlessly with modern comforts, culminating to tailor a regal experience for tourists who want to sample luxury. From its northernmost tip to its southernmost end, the country has several luxurious escapades that warrant a splurge. While spanning its eastern corner to the western coast, India offers luxe experiences galore — these range from rejuvenating beach getaways, luxurious oases in the desert, jungle jaunts, and even glorious experiences on cruises and trains.

#### The special edition involves guest contributions from:



Stipe Božić, Croatian mountaineer, documentary filmmaker, photographer, & writer



Goran Karan, famous Croatian singer



Igor Štimac, coach of the National Fotball Team of India

### Message from H.E. Mr. Raj Kuma Srivastava, Ambassador of India to Croatia



As India celebrates both in India and abroad, its 75 years of independence, New India is in the making. A New India which is distinguished for its Democracy, Demography, Diversity & Development; a New India which symbolizes speed, scale, sensitivity & self-reliance; and a New India which is transforming its Technology, Trade, Talent & Tourism. It is this New India that invites our friends in Croatia and Europe to visit the land of wisdom, mystery, history, heritage, adventure, rejuvenation & spirituality to observe the change & continuity, to see the tradition & modernity, and to experience the sublime & bliss. You decide the time, theme & terrain and we have a team to help you decide where your next journey to India could be in 2022-23. Here in this special report on tourism ideas in India, we have showcased a symbolic 75 iconic destinations, 25 each from the northern, central, and southern belts of India, on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of Indian Independence. A short thematic tourism report and three messages of iconic Croatian personalities who discovered part of themselves while traveling to India make this special supplement a great appetizer for your forthcoming visit to India. INDIA AWAITS YOU.

### 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.



#### 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.



# 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

AMBASSADOR OF INDIA, H.E. RAJ KUMAR SRIVASTAVA



As we celebrate three decades of India and Crostia diplomatic relations, this collection of 30 ensys 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 colobrate 75 years of India's independence in the form: of Azadi Ka Amirk Mahotsur (AKAM). We colobrate this important militation as a process, and not as an

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 pillurs of these orders are the same.

One of the pillars of these exlebrations is to celebrate the unusual heroes of our freedom struggle. The 30 chapters in this book also, in a way, are to celebrate the unusual frecess and themes of India-Crossia relationship. I am stare the readers and the stake-holders of our bi-lateral relationship would get suotivation and inspiration while reading these chapters about how we can strongthen 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 Ys – Technology, Tourism and Trade.

I rake 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 wholeheareed 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 fruitton well in time before the day of 30 years of establishment of diplomatic relationship between one two countries.

F.A.

PREFACE (Raj Kumar Servanova)	1/30
INTRODUCTION (Inst Andriana)	EX
POLITICS AND DIPLOMACY	1 3 11 25
from Andriquesi: Political and Economic Ties Between Creatia and India	3
Mislar Johic Sejepan Badii and Mohandar Kacamduad Giadhi	- 0
Budies Cicale Chard: Josep Bree Tiro and India - The Non-Aligned Movement	26
fron Andrijanic: Drugo Stambuk – Diplimar and Post	40
MISSIONANIES	47
Zeberka Marshi; Nikola Ratkar	47
Milka Josh-Pinhak: Some Notes on the Pionori Indologias Filip Vandas	200
(Poslinus a Sunceo Burelsolorum)	53
Annun Sorber: Perso Mesoric, Monk of the Society of Jesse, Missionary in India	6)
Holena Morolo Assum Virjak - A Missimury of Everyday Life	67
Fe, Irselhaps Jorbi SJ: Fe, Anne Gabrie, S.J. – The Apostle of the Sundarbane	25
LITERATURE, CULTURE, RELIGION AND SCIENCE	83
Communiting Law Booleans Common Michaeumic on the Boginstage of	
Creation Indelegy	89
Orse Ligorio: Pero Budinani, she Indologier	94.
Solv Kenie-Joana Belie Maharanić and Visdanie Maharanić -	
From Dubrywnik to Dia	100
Bathes Oldsk Chand: Tin Upvic and India	309
Movie Hitera Josep Hittoc and India - A Creat Coptested by India	119
Igor Gehic: Vesna Krusponic and Fascinanios with India	125

Darko Zobriniò Maharmi Gandhi and Kristian Kreliswič Connerting India and Crossis	
	129
Clara Ginc Meadanin: Indian Crossian Littmey Reference	139
Hrveje Corgonia: Forms of Religiosity of Indian Cingin in Cristia	745
Dipendry Provid: Ramonejan, Harish Chandra, and Crowice Machematics	155
Iran Andrijanić: Travilies. Travil Witten, and Documenturians	361
INDOLOGY	379
Miday Jelid: Indology in Creata - In Past and Posent, Paymen,	22
Commbution, and Publications	173
long Behalo, Colomil Veljačić (1915–1997) – Hermit and Philosopher	791
Zdravka Manilió Sentonar Pozović (1938–2005)	291
Mislar Ježić: Kadodar Karićić, an Accomplished Philologie: and: dar Foundar of the Snoly of Indology in Creatia	205
Iran Andrianić: Milka Jook Piehak, a Denoted and Respected Teacher of Indolog	215
Iron Andripotic Redice Cital-Chiend and Contemporary Seech Asian Social	200
and Political Thomes	229
Zdrurka Mariiid: Rada Irekmid and Kurmen Balid	225
Moriuma Junjić, Zdravka Metitić - the Grande Dame of Crontian Indology	129
Midse Jetich Klara Genic Montanin – Bread Interress and Great Energy in Indelegy Souties	235
Ivan Andrepote, Midar Selie and his Control setting to Countage and	
International Indology	259

### 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



















Arnab Bhattacharya and Rohen Bose presented Indian classical music

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>.



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 link.

# Mr. Deepak Bagla, Managing Director & CEO of Invest India, visit to Croatia highlighted Innovation Opportunities in the Transforming India for a Stronger India-Croatia Partnership

Business Session with Deepak Bagla, CEO & MD of Invest India was held with the presence of Ambassador Srivastava, Podravka President of Board Ms. Martina Dalić, former Croatian Economy Minister & other highly distinguished guests about the potential of expanding the cooperation between India and Croatia across several sectors. Mr. Bagla emphasized that Croatia could be among 165 partner-countries which reflects the scale of India's partnerships and the trust that the global community has placed on India's future.



Zagreb School of Economics (ZSEM) and Management hosted the masterclass lecture by Mr. Deepak Bagla, Managing Director & CEO of Invest India the presence of students, Ambassador Srivastava & Mr. Mato Njavro, Dean of ZŠEM. Mr. Bagla delivered an inspirational lecture in which he explained to the students the magnitude of change and transformation happening today in New India & emphasized the importance of India's "golden age dividend", since 53.6 % of India's population is under the age of 29, of which, 25 % are under the age of 14, making India one of the youngest countries in the world.





Interview with

# Mr.Deepak Bagla, Managing Director & CEO, Invest India,

in the Croatian Business Magazine LIDER

In an interview in the edition of Croatian Business Magazine Lider, Mr. Deepak Bagla, Managing Director & CEO, Invest India, highlights the forefront of bringing global companies and investments into the Indian market which enabled New India to allocate in the past 8 years, over USD 523 billion across over 62 sectors. The interview is also announcing Mr. Bagla's participation as the keynote speaker at the 14th edition of the "Big Plans Day" conference on 21st September in Zagreb which would be inaugurated by the Hon'ble President of the Republic of Croatia. Find out more at: https://bit.lv/3OJOA0S

# Five contemporary Indian artists' artworks have been chosen for display at the Zagreb Art fair in Croatia.



The opening of the Art Zagreb fair (ALU Perspektiva 2) at the Academy of Fine Arts Zagreb, University of Zagreb was marked with the inaugural speech of Ambassador Srivastava, Mr. Tomislav Buntak, Dean of the Academy of Fine Arts and Mr. Daniel Tomičić, Director of Art Zagreb. Lalit Kala Akademi has chosen five contemporary Indian artists' artworks for display as each artist has sent 15 artworks, making it a total of 75 artworks in recognition of the year 2022 being the 75th anniversary of India's Independence.

The five artists' diverse range of artistic responses to reality is seen in this exhibition. Amit Kumar's paintings are inspired by nature and the present-day environmental crisis caused by humankind. Ganesh Dhareshwar's symbolic representation of human feelings seen in his works is the visual metaphor for his narratives. Laxman Prasad is using plumb lines metaphorically to depict the balance of life. Rishi Raj Tomar feels that the rights or wrongs happening around him need to be told through his paintings as a message to society. Sayam Bharat has been working on the memories from his past — the gratified pastoral life of his community.



# The Ratha Yatra 2022 held in Zagreb confirms the Indian conviction that the "World is one family"

Ambassador Srivastava and Mr Svibor Jancic, representative of the City of Zagreb, jointly attended this year's Ratha Yatra celebration in Zagreb. This Ratha Yatra has been organized by ISKCON Zagreb, supported by City of Zagreb and the Embassy of India, Zagreb. Ambassador Srivastava said that it is heartening to see the almost 500 years old tradition of Puri Ratha Yatra is celebrated globally since 1968 thanks to Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada of ISKCON. The Ratha Yatra in Zagreb brings a glimpse of sharing, togetherness and bliss, and confirms the Indian conviction that the "World is one family".



A conference was held on the topic "The Wisdom and Science of India and the West, united in the works of Tesla" at HKD Napredak Zagreb and pointed out Vedic principles in Tesla's understanding of life. The event was held with the welcoming speech of Ambassador Srivastava, Mr Singh, Croatian Indian Society & Ms Dragica Mihajlovic, president of the Association Nikola Tesla-Genius for the future. The lecturers included Yogacharya Jadranko Miklec, PhD Davor Pavuna, Mr. Goran Marjanović and Ms. Iva Mia Krušlin who praised Swami Vivekananda's influence of Nikola Tesla's work which indicates the ties between India and Croatia for many years.



Mahatma Gandhi's 153rd birth anniversary was celebrated in Zagreb with the presence of about 75 friends of India. We also remembered Second PM Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri on his 118th birth anniversary.

#### International Day of Non-Violence

On the occasion of International Day of Non-Violence, the Embassy of India, Zagreb, FER, Sveučilište u Zagrebu & Croatian Indian Society partnered a special evening celebrating Culture, Customs, Conversation, Creativity & Cuisine with a keynote speech by H.E. Mr Ivo Josipović, former President of Croatia on Mahatma Gandhi's legacy with the topic "Nonviolence is a Weapon of the Strong". The event was attended by Ambassador Srivastava who opened the gathering, Prof. PhD Vedran Bilas, Dean of FER, Prof. PhD Boško Picula, Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Zagreb and Acad. Mr. Mislav Ježić, Indologist. After the conference, an interactive special Garba Dance Festival was held on the auspicious occasion of Navratras, followed by Vegetarian Indian Cuisine. About 100 guests attended the event.



### An India block was present at the 6th edition of the Mirko Miočić Memorial

50 difficult questions on India with answers to be written by participants without multiple choices. The winner got 43 correct. Amazing knowledge on India shown by Croatia and other participants. Ambassador Srivastava participated at the 6th edition of Mirko Miočić Memorial, one of the largest open quizzes in Southeast Europe, held on 1st October under the sponsorship of the City of Grad Zadar, with a specially dedicated block about India on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of Independence Day of India.



#### AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV

#### Presentation of the book "Croatian-Indian ties: "30 chapters for 30 years of diplomatic relations"

Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia, H.E. Mr. Gordan Grlić Radman, participated at the Faculty of Philosophy in Zagreb, University of Zagreb at the presentation of the book "Croatian-Indian ties: 30 chapters for 30 years of diplomatic relations", on the occasion of marking the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

"India and Croatia are friendly countries that are committed to further strengthening their diplomatic relations, aware of the great potential that exists for expanding our cooperation," the minister emphasized in his speech, expressing his satisfaction that a publication that brings together the most important contributions of Croatian scientists will remain as a permanent legacy of this year's jubilee, artists, politicians, diplomats and missionaries in developing and strengthening the ties between our two countries,"





#### "Celebrating National Unity Week of India with Global Unity of P3 (Pro Planet People): LiFE"

On the occasion of National Unity Day 2022, the Croatia-India Society hosted a seminar "Celebrating National Unity Week of India with Global Unity of P3 (Pro Planet People): LiFE" with a welcome speech by the Ambassador of India to Croatia, Mr Raj Kumar Srivastava, presentations by Ms Dunja Mazzocco Drvar, Director for Climate Activities of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, "The Croatian experience on Green transition and Sustainable Development and Bilateral Opportunities for Cooperation in the Context of the Mission Life." and Prof. Ivan Andrijanić, Head of the Department of Indology and Far Eastern Studies "Sardar Patel: The Iron Man of India who Unified the Country after 1947." At the event was also presented Shri Arun Kumar Sahu, Joint Secretary (Central Europe) of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. Mission LiFE was launched by PM Narendra Modi with UN Secretary-General Mr Antonio Guterres at the 182 meters tall Statue of Unity in Kevadiya Gujarat on 20 October 2022.



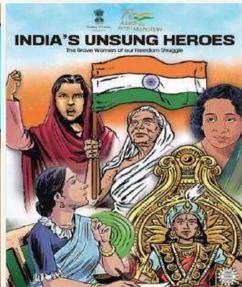


# 57th Zagreb Salon: Seminar on the "20 Women Freedom Fighters of India"

Ambassador Srivastava made a presentation in the Memorial apartment of the late 1st Croatian female journalist of Marije Jurić Zagorke on the topic of the unsung heroines of the Indian freedom movement and presented the comic book released in Jan 2022 by the Minister of State for External Affairs of India, Mrs. Meenakshi Lekhi, about "20 Women Freedom Fighters of India". The director of the Center for Women's Studies Ms Dorotea Šušak and the curator of the Zagreb Art Salon Ms Leila Topić also took part in the conversation. The seminar was part of the India block in the 57th Edition of the Zagreb Salon Art fair celebrating Amrit Mahotsav as well. As part of the future endeavours between EOI and the centre, 10 copies of the comic book presented would enrich the public library of the centre.







### **AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV**

Glimpses of the Bhakti Marga Croatia's "Just Love" concert celebrating Indian spiritual music, supported by Embassy of India, Zagreb as part of the Amrit Mahotsav initiative. The gathering with attendees from several countries enjoyed the universal values through music focusing on India's rich cultural heritage.



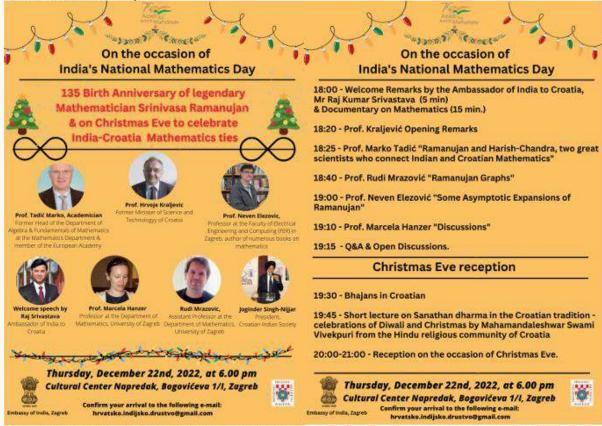
### Evening for the 60th Anniversary of the Indology Department, Hindi Diwas & Sanskrit Diwas संस्कृत दिवस

India in Croatia (Embassy of India, Zagreb) along with the Indology Department of the University of Zagreb hosted a celebratory evening for the 60th Anniversary of the Indology Department, Hindi Diwas हिंदी दिवस & Sanskrit Diwas संस्कृत दिवस. Ambassador Srivastava acknowledged the rich 60-year-old history of the Indology department and the future prospects which would strengthen even further the ties between India and Croatia. The presence of ICCR's Hindi as well as Sanskrit Chair for the first time ever in Zagreb augers well for an even brighter future of India's studies in Croatia. Three hour-long programs included speeches by Vice Dean of the Faculty fo Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb, Ambassador Raj Srivastava, highly regarded Prof Mislav Jezic, Head of Indology Department Prof Ivan Andrijanic, 5th Hindi Chair Prof Meenu Krishna and 1st Sanskrit Chair Prof C B Jha. The students presented both literary and cultural programs during the evening showing the strong bond between India and Croatia. As a tribute to India Presidency to G20 currently, the students also prepared and read the Hindi, Sanskrit & Croatian translations of PM Modi's Op-Ed released on the inaugural day of India's G20 Presidency.

CLINK: https://youtu.be/IB5dUwl.8ZCc & https://youtu.be/YDeAZzUEkQA

# On the occasion of India's National Mathematics Day

The event on the occasion of India's National Mathematics Day, 135 Birth Anniversary of legendary Mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan & on Christmas Eve to celebrate India-Croatia Mathematics ties organized on 22nd December 2022 at Napredak in cooperation with the Embassy of India, Zagreb & the Croatian-Indian Society.



After the welcome speech by Ambassador Srivastava and Joginder Singh-Nijjar, President of the Croatian-Indian Society, prominent Croatian Mathematicians Prof. Hrvoje Kraljevic Former Croatian Minister of Science & Technology, Prof. Tadić Marko, Academician, Prof. Neven Elezovic, Professor at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering & Computing (FER) in Zagreb, Prof. Marcela Hanzer, Professor at the Department of Mathematics, PMF Zagreb University of Zagreb, Rudi Mrazovic, Assistant Professor at the Department of Mathematics, University of Zagreb, spoke at length how Srinivasa Ramanujan and another Indian mathematician Harish-Chandrahave inspired many Croatian Mathematician and therefore contributed to the India-Croatian relations in the field of mathematics.



The event, being celebrated on Christmas Eve concluded with some spiritual songs and feist for the participants underlying the theme One World, One Family.





On the occasion of the 74th Republic Day of India, the National Flag was unfurled by the Ambassador of India to Croatia Raj Kumar Srivastava at the Chancery premises today amidst a gathering of Indian nationals and friends of India. This was followed by reading the address of the Hon'ble President of India to the Nation. Wishing you all a happy Republic Day.



### Inauguration of the 2-month-long exhibition showcasing the products, of the ODOP (One District One Product) initiative of the Government of India

On the Occasion of the 74th RepublicDay of India, the Embassy of India in cooperation with the Ethnographical Museum in Zagreb inaugurated a 2-month long exhibition showcasing the products, of the highly successful and empowering ODOP (One District One Product) initiative of the Government of India. The event witnessed speeches by Ms Goranka Horjan, Director of the Ethnographic Museum in Zagreb, Ambassador of India to Croatia Mr. Raj Kumar Srivastava & Guest of Honour, Director of the Directorate for Archives, Libraries and Museums; Ms Anuška Deranja Crnokić on behalf of the Minister of Culture and Media of the Republic of Croatia, Ms Nina Obuljen Koržinek as her emissary. The event highlighted the strong India-Croatia ties in the field of Culture. Ambassador Srivastava referred that the "One District One Product" (ODOP) as a transformational step towards realising the true potential of a district by converting each district of the country into a manufacturing and export hub, fuelling economic growth, generating employment and rural entrepreneurship, taking us to the goal of Self-reliant India. It is an initiative to empower the people which democratises opportunity creating human-centric growth through human-centric governance & human-centric globalisation. Also, the event announced the theme of India's G20 Presidency "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" or One Earth, One Family, One Future, which affirms the value of all life possible. Lastly, the exhibition has a special section highlighting the International Year of the Millet 2023, declared by the United Nations. This event was attended by several distinguished guests from Croatia and high dignities from various countries & ministries of Croatia.





In the exhibition space were ODOP (One District One Product) was showcased, events have been organized as part of the Night of the Musuem culture program.



### Bhoomika Creative Dance Centre at Kazalište KNAP

Thanks to Indian Council For Cultural Relations, the 50 years old <u>Bhoomika Creative Dance Centre presented to the audience in Kazalište Knap</u> in the City of Zagreb a 75-minute of India experience with diverse themes and emotions. The event was supported by ACG Lukaps, the City of Zagreb and Theatre KNAP.



Ambassador Srivastava shared the stage on the <u>Croatian National Television Dobro jutro</u>, <u>Hrvatska show</u> with Mr Bharat Sharma, the Director of 5 decade old Bhoomika Creative Dance Centre from New Delhi, supported by Indian Council For Cultural Relations about the forthcoming tour in Croatia.



# WEEK OF "INDIA IN RIJEKA"

The 5C Programme (Conversations, Cuisine, Costumes, Culture and Customs) on Friday 17th Feb. at the Week of "India in Rijeka" at the Cultural hall 'Yoga in Daily Life' was inaugurated by the Deputy Mayor of Grad Rijeka Mr. Goran Palčevski in front of over 200 attendees who witnessed during "Conversation on India" interesting views by the most successful Croatian Himalayan climber Mr Stipe Bozic & famous Croatian singer Mr. Goran Karan who explained that by visiting India you discover yourself, as India provides you with the large canvass which has something for everyone to touch the heart & soul.







# Performance of Bhoomika in Filodrammatica hall

The programme gave glimpses of dances by Bhoomika Creative Dance Centre created over a span of 50 years which derives from the entire range of themes, dance works, music, costumes and design elements of the dance company was presented to the audience in Filodrammatica hall in Rijeka during the International festivity Rijeka Carnival on 18th February.



## Performance of at the 40th International Rijeka Carnival Parade

The Bhoomika Creative Dance Centre was participating in the 40th Jubilee of the International Carnival parade in Rijeka which was attended by over 100,000 spectators. The troupe presented glimpses of ULHAAS In celebration of Bhoomika's 50 years through joyous movements.





Source: Nova TV, Visit Rijeka

## Media article about the Week of India in Rijeka

Media article about the Week of India in <u>Dubrovnik</u>



From St. Vlach to Bollywood, an unbreakable connection since the 15th century



#### Bhoomika in Metković



The Creative Dance Center 'Bhoomika' performed in the City Cultural Center Metković on the 21st of February.

The evening was opened by the director of the Metković Culture and Sports Institution Director Ms Zrinka Mioč, thanking everyone who contributed to 'Boomika' performing in Metković - the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, the City of Metković and the Father Ante Gabrić Foundation and India in Croatia (Embassy of India, Zagreb).

The Indian Council For Cultural Relations troupe Bhoomika Creative Dance Centre in partnership with the Father Ante Gabrić Foundation and the City of Metković, as part of Ante Gabrić's Father's Day, performed in the City Cultural Center Metković on Tuesday, 21st February. Bhoomika dancers, seven of them, along with their artistic director and choreographer, Bharat Sharma, visited Metković and Stjepan Radić Elementary School to socialize with a varied program of librarian Ivan Čarapin and teacher Aleksandra Lukić Skelić with the help of prof. English languages Dragana Grgić organized in the school library. Director Božena Nikoletić extended a warm welcome to the guests, emphasizing that in the person of the Servant of God Ante Gabrić, we are permanently connected to India because everyone who comes from another homeland of our father Ante is our dear guest and friend. Members of the Cultural Arts Society Metković, dancers and musicians, led by Anđeline Jerković and leader of the KUD mandolin orchestra Tomislav Herceg, showed the splendour of their talent and a piece of Croatian and Neretva folklore tradition. LINK

## WEEK OF "INDIA IN DUBROVNIK"



The 'Conversations about India' as part of the Week of "India in Dubrovnik" which would take place from 20-26 February was opened by the Mayor of the City of Grad Dubrovnik, Mato Frankovic at Lazareti together with Ms Marija Radonić, president of India-Croatia Friendship Society in Dubrovnik and Ambassador Srivastava on the 20th February. "We are glad that we gathered to confirm the extremely good friendship and strong cooperation between Dubrovnik and India, as well as the interest of our fellow citizens in getting to know Indian culture. I believe that our ties will continue to develop and deepen in different areas in order to promote Dubrovnik in India, but also India in Dubrovnik, that is, in Croatia. There are many opportunities for cooperation, especially due to the fact that India has a huge economic and tourism potential. On this occasion, I will mention that a few years ago, an Indian film was shot and performed in Dubrovnik, which is proof that Dubrovnik is a great and at the same time indispensable world stage for shooting series and films. Thus, Dubrovnik itself became closer to India with its history and beauty," addressed the mayor. Ambassador Srivastava gave a speech and emphasized the importance of this multi-day event aimed at getting to know valuable segments of rich Indian culture. The ceremonial opening was marked by a lecture by Swami Vivek Puri, Yoga in Daily Life system, and a short intervention by Goran Karan with the motto "India has a special place in my heart". The international cultural program united the presentation of the culture and customs and various conversations and workshops and the presentation of costumes and gastronomy inspired by India as part of the 5C's (Culture, Cinema, Conversations, Costumes, Cuisine).

The Week of "India in Dubrovnik" continued on Tuesday, February 21, with the lecture "What is yoga and what is its purpose - Introductory lecture on the path and history of yoga", held by Marija Grgurević from the holistic fitness studio Elixir Vitae about the origins of Yoga. The lecture was followed by the lecture "Purpose and practical benefits of meditation for everyday life" by Zdravko Baselli from TM Centar Dubrovnik



## WEEK OF "INDIA IN DUBROVNIK" - Bhoomika perfomance

The final performance of the Bhoomika Creative Dance Centre troupe took place on 22nd Feb. at Lazareti, under the protection of UNESCO - since 1994 in the presence of Deputy Mayor of Dubrovnik Ms Jelka Tepšić & Ambassador Srivastava.



## 'Conversations about India' as part of the Week of "India in Dubrovnik"

The fourth session of 'Conversations about India' as part of the Week of "India in Dubrovnik" was held with lectures from a historian PhD. Tonči Šitin, on Rabindranath Tagore entitled "All my life I have been looking for you in my poems", and from the famous alpinist Stipe Bozic on "Himalayas - the sacred gardens of India", about his encounters with the sacred peaks of the Himalayas, which are the habitats of top Hindu deities. Among over 100 attendees present together Ms Marija Radonić, President of the Croatian Indian Friendship Society of Dubrovnik and Ambassador Srivastava. Ambassador thanked the speakers and greeted the audience mentioning that such conversations are to highlight the truth the "Whole World is One Family" and that there is an inherent "Unity in Diversity" in human existence.



## 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.



## 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.



#### 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.



## 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.



## 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 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 Jamon with Ragi badam halwa

# 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.



# Joyful 90 minutes workshop with the students of the dance school Public Art Dance School Silvije Hercigonje

The Indian dancer and choreographer Mrs Sohini Roychowdhury Dasgupta in a joyful 90 minutes workshop with the students of the dance school Public Art Dance School Silvije Hercigonje, & introduced the essence of Indian Bharatanatyam dance.



Sohini Roychowdhury is an internationally renowned Bharatanatyam dancer, choreographer, author, speaker, producer, and professor of Natyashastra, is the founder of Sohinimoksha World Dance & Communications in Madrid, Berlin, Kolkata, New York, and Sohinimoksha Artes de La India in Spain. A visiting professor of dance at seventeen Universities across the globe, she has been honoured with multiple prestigious awards. Her book, Dancing With The Gods, decodes the various layers of Bharatanatyam through the journey of Roychowdhury's dance troupe.

## Exploring India & Croatia ties in R&D projects

Ambassador Srivastava participated in the open discussion organized by the Croatian Indian Society at HKD Napredak Zagreb "Exploring India & Croatia ties in R&D projects" with Prof. Mirko Orlic, FCA, Andrija Mohorovicic Geophysical Ins., Fac. of Science, Uni. of Zagreb who held a lecture on "How the discontinuity became Mohorovičić's" about the work of Croatian seismologist Andrija Mohorovičić, credited with discovering and defining the Moho Discontinuity in 1909. Ambassador Srivastava invited the attendees to join the strong ongoing R&D ties between India and Croatia which are connected already through several institutions which could create new potential breakthroughs for scientists and the youth of both countries. S.



## 1st International Amateur Tournament in Table Tennis

The Embassy of India, in cooperation with the StaRR Table Tennis Club, hosted an international amateur tournament that took place in STC Zagreb on Tuesday, June 6, 2023. The tournament was attended by 11 diplomats (from 8 different countries) and 11 guests who played 63 games of table tennis within 3 hours. The proud winner of the international table tennis tournament is Mr Saša Markovski, an employee of the city of Grad Rab, second place went to Branimir Blajić, the manager of the company Best Hospitality Solutions for hotel management, while the third place was won by Mr Neven Bosilj, the mayor of the city of Grad Varaždin. The tournament was opened by the Ambassador of India to Croatia, Mr. Raj Kumar Srivastava, Ms Renata Suša, director of the Zagreb Fair, and Ronald Ređep, president of STK "STARR". Ambassador Srivastava assessed that the goal of such events is to further strengthen interpersonal ties through sport and a strong partnership with Indian table tennis academies. "Table tennis is extremely popular not only in Asia, including India but also in Croatia, which has a number of players on the world rankings, which shows us the universal aspect of table tennis, which is present in the bilateral relations between Croatia and India." Renata Suša praised the mentioned initiative and invited all interested partners to explore the possibilities the Zagreb Fair offers. As the motto of this tournament is to strengthen interpersonal ties through sport, the director of the Zagreb Fair expressed her satisfaction that the Zagreb Fair is the venue for this sports event organized by the Starr Table Tennis Club from Varaždin and the Embassy of India in Croatia. The event also witnessed a beautiful musical intervention by the famous Nenad Bach, an American-Croatian musician, composer, performer, producer, and peace activist.



## A magical evening: "Empowering the Universe Within"

In a unique event at Napredak, the accomplished female mentalist and mind trainer, Dr. Kruti Parekh gave a wonderful demonstration on the power of mind and 'how to empower the universe within'. In 60 minutes of spell-bound presentation and show, she could demonstrate the different phenomenas associated with mind such as Telepathy, Psychometry, Mind conditioning and Meditation as a state of thoughtless awareness. The magic of mind was at display when audience was mesmerized by some of the acts which involved audience, yet the outcomes were unexplainable. A truly empowering session for all of those who attended.



## International folklore festival with the Rajasthani Panihari Lok Sangeet Group supported by Indian Council For Cultural Relations





The streets and squares of Zagreb's city centre came alive from 19 to 23 July with the 57th Zagreb International Folklore Festival, a traditional event and one of the most significant gatherings in the field of folklore and traditional culture in Croatia. The Zagreb Folklore Festival, which promotes local heritage and amateur folklore, has been held since 1966. The theme of this year's festival is the commemoration of the centenary of the Kupa River Expedition, as a tribute and recognition to a group of experts and enthusiastic individuals who, by kayaking along the Kupa River, visited 34 villages and documented the traditional clothing and architectural heritage of that region through words, imagery, scientific research, and professional work. In honour of the occasion, this year's program included folklore groups from the Pokuplje region, joining to pay tribute to the expedition.

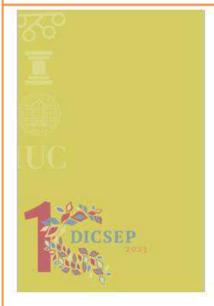
## Performance of the Rajasthani Panihari Lok Sangeet Group in Zagreb and Sveta Nedelja

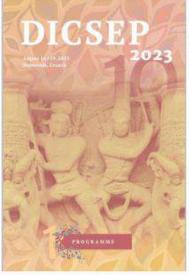
ICCR-sponsored 8-member Rajasthani Folkloric Group represented India in the prestigious Annual Zagreb Folkloric Summer Festival during 19-23 July. India was the only non-European country represented this year. Group was also hosted for an official reception by the Mayor of Zagreb. They performed at Zagreb International Folklore Festival, Sveta Nedelja, stage by the lake Kipišće in Strmec on 20 July, at the stage in Zrinjevac Park, Zagreb among performances from other countries taking part in 57th International Folklore Festival, at the stage in Zrinjevac Park, Zagreb on 22 July and at the main stage of Ban Josip Jelačić Square in Zagreb on 23 July. On 23 July. Ambassador attended formal reception and distribution of certificate of appreciation to Rajasthani Panihari Lok Sangeet Group among participating groups from other countries in Dverce Palace with presence of Mayor as a part of International Folklore Festival in Zagreb from 19-23 July 2023

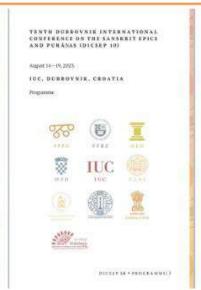


#### **AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV**

## DISCEP 2023 Conference to be held in Dubrovnik from 14-19 August, 2023







The Tenth International Conference on the Sanskrit Epics and Purāṇas will be held from August 14-19, 2023, in Dubrovnik. As in the previous conferences, many aspects of current research on the Sanskrit epics and Purāṇas will be discussed: critical editing of texts, composition, literary techniques, history of texts, chronology, intertextuality, historical context, religious and mythological contents, relationship of texts to the earlier Vedic and later Tantric texts, the contemporary importance of this tradition, etc. The theme of the 2023 conference will be: "Current work and research on the Sanskrit epics and Purāṇas"

The five days 10th DISCEP Conference would witness 12 regular sessions and three special sessions. Six of these would be devoted to Mahabharata, two to Ramajana, and four to Puranas. A special keynote address by the President of ICCR (Indian Council for Cultural Relations), Dr. Vinay Prabhakar Sahasrabuddhe is scheduled on the occasion of Independence Day of India on 15 August 2023 to celebrate the grand finale of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav in Dubrovnik.

#### **PROGRAMME**

Conference programme can be found at the LINK.