





# Newsletter

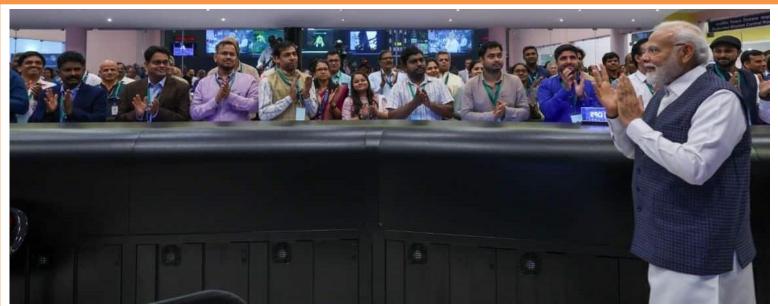


# India's Moon Mission Chandrayan-3 Lander became the world's first to successfully land on Moon's South Pole

India became the first country to land a spacecraft near the Moon's south pole, a historic voyage to uncharted territory that scientists believe could hold vital reserves of frozen water, and a technological triumph for the world's most populous nation. India now joins the United States, the Soviet Union and China as only the fourth country to achieve this milestone. A lander with a rover inside touched down on the lunar surface at 6:04 p.m. local time on 23<sup>rd</sup> August, sparking celebrations across India, including in the southern Indian city of Bengaluru, where space scientists watching the landing erupted in cheers and applause. "This moment is unforgettable. It is phenomenal. This is a victory cry of a new India," said Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who waved the Indian flag as he watched the landing from South Africa where he was attending a BRICS summit, a group that joins Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Scientists and officials clapped, cheered and hugged each other as the spacecraft landed and people across India broke out in celebration. "India is on the moon," said S. Somanath, chief of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) as the Chandrayaan-3 landed.



### PM Modi's speech on India's Moon Mission Chandrayan-3



The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi visited the ISRO Telemetry Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) in Bengaluru after his arrival from Greece and addressed Team ISRO on the success of Chandrayaan-3. The Prime Minister met and interacted with ISRO scientists involved in the Chandrayaan-3 mission where he was also briefed about the findings and progress in the Chandrayaan-3 Mission.

Addressing the scientists, the Prime Minister expressed great delight in being present at the ISRO Telemetry Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) in Bengaluru and said that such an occasion is extremely rare when the body and mind get filled with such happiness. Referring to the few special moments in everyone's lives when impatience starts to dominate, the Prime Minister noted that he experienced the exact same emotions during his tour to South Africa and Greece and said that his mind was always focused on the Chandrayaan 3 Mission. Observing the inconvenience caused to the scientists at ISRO due to his impromptu plans to visit the ISTRAC, a visibly emotional Prime Minister said that he was eager to visit and salute the scientists for their diligence, dedication, courage, devotion and passion. The Prime Minister said that this is not a simple success. He said this achievement heralds India's scientific power in infinite space. An elated Prime Minister exclaimed, "India is on the Moon, we have our national pride placed on the Moon". Highlighting this unprecedented achievement, the Prime Minister said "This is today's India that is fearless and relentless. This is an India that thinks new and in a novel way, the one that goes to the dark zone and spreads light in the world. This India will provide solutions to the big problems of the world in the 21st century." The Prime Minister said that the moment of the touchdown has become immortal in the consciousness of the nation. "The moment of touchdown is one of the most inspiring moments of this century. Every Indian took it as his or her own victory", he said. The Prime Minister credited the scientists for this grand success. The Prime Minister, describing the photographs of the strong footings of the Moon lander said, "Our 'Moon Lander' has firmly set its foot on the Moon like 'Angad... On the one side is the valour of Vikram then there is bravery of Pragyan on the other". He said these are pictures of the never seen parts of the moon and this has been done by India. "Entire world recognizes India's scientific spirit, technology and temperament," said Shri Modi.

Addressing ISRO scientists at the ISRO Telemetry Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) in Bengaluru after his arrival from Greece, Mr. Modi said: "The point where the moon lander of Chandrayaan-3 landed will now be known as Shiv Shakti. In Shiv, there is resolution for the welfare of humanity and Shakti gives us strength to fulfil those resolutions. This Shiv Shakti point of the moon also gives a sense of connection with Himalaya to Kanyakumari."

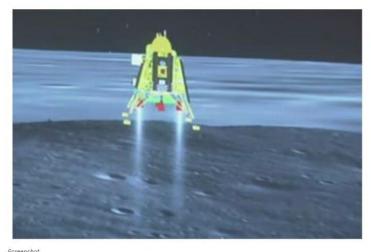
Watch the full speech.

### Croatian media's reaction to India's moon landing

A great moment for the whole of humanity with ISRO - Indian Space Research Organization successfully landing Chandrayaan-3 at Moon's South Pole. It is heartbreaking to see the ISRO's success is celebrated by the world as it should be. A glimpse of coverage in Croatian media is presented here.



Indija je na Mjesecu: Sletjela posada svemirske letjelice Chandrayaan-3



# Uspjeli su! Indija je postala četvrta zemlja koja je sigurno spustila letjelicu na Mjesec Letjelica Chandrayaan-3 odradila je sve bez ikakvih problema. Martina Čizmić | 23.08.2023. / 14:34

### VELIKI USPJEH INDIJE Sonda im je sletjela na Miesec

Indijska svemirska letjelica sigurno je sletjela na Mjesec, objavila je u srijedu Indijska organizacija za svemirska istraživanja (ISRO), čime je Indija postala tek četvrta zemlja koja je to ostvarila. Premijer Narendra Modi to je proglasio pobledom niegove zemlie











### JEDNA OD ČETIRI DRŽAVE SVIJETA /

Povijesni uspjeh Indijaca: prvi su uspjeli sletjeti na južni pol Mjeseca

## Independence Day 2023 Highlights: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his address from Red Fort on the occasion of 77th Independence Day









Watch the speech here.

### New India at work in diverse sports arenas



	2023 WORLD ARCHERY Championship Standings				
RANK	NATION	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
1	INDIA	3		1	4
2	<b>KOREA</b>	2	*	1	3
3	<b>CONTURKIYE</b>	1	1		2
3	POLAND	1	1	-	2
3	GERMANY	1	1		2
6	CZECH REPUBLIC	1	•		1
6	USA	1			1
8	MEXICO	-	3	1	4
9	<b>★</b> CANADA		1		1
9	FRANCE		1		1











The opening of the Croatian
Table tennis season took place
in Dugo Selo, where the 2nd
TIS Open took place.

In the oldest, junior category, the title was won by the Indian Rajan Mathan Hansini (Starr), who also won the junior girls' tournament.



### **NEWS ON INDIA**

In the last three months alone, JPMorgan Chase, Citi, Lloyds Banking Group, Natwest and Deutsche Bank have either announced new offices in India or said they will be expanding their workforce in the country. JPMorgan Chase, which announced its new centres in Mumbai and Bengaluru last week, said in a statement that the company's corporate centres in India "have evolved" to provide tech solutions, business, and functional support. This is also visible in the statistics. As per a report by Nasscom, India currently has over 1,580 Global Capability Centres (GCC) or captives, with over 1,66 million people working in these companies. By 2026-27, Nasscom sees the number rising to 2,000-plus GCCs in India, a number that is believed to be understated. Both EY and Boston Consulting Group (BCG) expect up to 45 lakh people to be working in GCCs in the country by 2030. This shift is driven by several factors, and one of the most important is Indian skilled and diverse workforce, which is crucial for innovation and development efforts. The demand for employees in GCCs is increasing, and India's IT workforce provides a significant advantage. Also, India's dynamic market environment allows companies to tap into emerging trends and technologies.



### From 5G to 6G: India's technological evolution

India is already preparing to initiate 6G, PM Modi said during his address on the 77th Independence Day. He announced the establishment of a task force dedicated to this purpose. Modi highlighted the widespread accessibility of the internet, reaching even the remotest villages, and revealed the nation's aspirations to embrace quantum computing. "My country is the fastest country to roll out 5G. We have reached more than 700 districts and now we are getting ready for 6G. We have formed a task force," Modi said from the ramparts of the Red Fort. Further, he underscored the global influence of technology and shared that even developed countries are looking to learn from the achievements of India's Digital India initiative.



### India's toy exports surge by 60%

India's exports of toys have surged by an impressive 60%, climbing from US\$ 203.46 million in 2018-19 to US\$ 325.72 million in the fiscal year 2022-23, according to the Ministry of State for Commerce and Industry. In contrast, the import of toys has witnessed a substantial decline of 57%, dropping from US\$ 371.69 million in 2018-19 to US\$ 158.70 million in 2022-23. Experts highlighted the government's proactive endeavours to bolster the domestic toy industry. They further mentioned that the cumulative count of industries registered under the ministry from January 1991 to July 31, 2023, stands at 110,525.



The Indian auto-component industry achieved an unprecedented turnover of INR 5.6 trillion (US\$ 69.7 billion) in FY24, marking a remarkable growth of 32.8% compared to the previous fiscal year, according to a report from The Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA), the leading representative body for the sector. The industry's size amounted to INR 4.20 trillion in the preceding fiscal year. Experts attributed this remarkable performance to robust vehicle sales within the country, a thriving aftermarket, and consistent exports. Exports of auto components also experienced a positive trajectory, increasing by 5.2% to reach INR 1.61 trillion (US\$ 20.1 billion) in the last fiscal year. However, imports of auto components grew at a slightly higher rate, rising by 10.9% to INR trillion (US\$ 20.3 billion). The aftermarket segment, valued at INR 85,333 crore, witnessed steady growth of 15%. Sales of components to original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) in the domestic market exhibited a significant increase of 39.5%, reaching INR 4.76 lakh crore.



**India's economy registered impressive growth of 7.8%** in the first quarter of the current financial year (April-June), attributed to good performance by the agriculture and financial sectors, according to official data released on Thursday. The World Bank says India is one of the fastest-growing economies of the world and is poised to continue on this path.



### Comment piece by Ambassador Srivastava in the daily newspaper Poslovni dnevnik headlined "India has given voice to the countries of the global South in interactions with G20"



As India celebrates the 76th Anniversary of its independence on 15 August 2023, it also marks the culmination of 75 weeks-long celebrations of 75 years of our independence - "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav". These celebrations allowed us to set an ambitious goal for our citizens to transform India into a fully developed country in the next 25 years, where democracy, demography, and diversity would be the basis of development. The momentum in all-round growth in India is already visible with great possibilities of this growth story having positive global implications in enhancing peace, stability, & prosperity. For example, India is fast becoming the skill capital of the world with its young demographic situation and focus on skill-based education. India's increasing agricultural & industrial production and improved logistics will address the global supply chain challenges in the coming years. India's focus of technology and technology-oriented global strategic partnerships with the US & the EU would become the basis for finding solutions to global challenges. And India's age-old civilisational wisdom of Yog, Ayurved, and spirituality is enhancing global well-being and peace among people.

### **INDIA'S G20 PRESIDENCY**

India's theme for its G20 Presidency, "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (One Earth - One Family - One Future) is aiming to build unanimity to address global challenges collectively and effectively. Inclusive, ambitious, and action-oriented were the words Prime Minister Narendra Modi used to define India's G20 Presidency in Bali last year. Ten months into our presidency, there is no doubt that India has delivered on its promise of inclusivity. India has given voice of global south a place of importance in G20 interactions, thus making it more inclusive. Indian democracy derives its strength from the spirit and ethos of the country's citizens and people-centric development is its defining feature. India's inclusive approach to the G20 presidency is, therefore, an extension of its domestic approach to development and progress, which focuses on engaging all sections of society. Providing every citizen with the basic necessities of life is the highest priority for the government and it has consistently ensured that there is enough social security support for all citizens.

Take our digital public infrastructure, for instance. It has enabled the government to deliver the benefits of development directly to citizens in all parts of the country in a transparent, smooth and corruption-free manner. Another example of India's commitment towards inclusive development is that under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, about 110 million rural households have been provided access to drinking water at their homes. The Government's dedicated focus on improving access to sanitation, nutrition, cooking fuel, financial inclusion, drinking water, and electricity has led to significant reduction in poverty in India, paving way to achieve the SDG target of eradicating poverty by 2030. India is well prepared to host the G20 summit in three weeks' time in New Delhi, which would bring out valuable outcomes those are results of collective hard work that has gone through in close to 200 meetings in past 10 months.

#### **ECONOMY**

The world is going through a difficult time. The IMF predicted that the global economic growth rate would fall from 3.4% in 2022 to 2.8% in 2023. Merchandise trade growth is expected to decline from 2.7% in 2022 to 1.7% in 2023 (WTO). A series of related events, from the COVID-19 pandemic to the Russia-Ukraine war, high inflation, geo-political tensions and disruption of supply chains, have caused this economic downturn. India is doing fairly well in these difficult times. India is among the fastest-growing countries in the world. India's exports of goods and services reached US\$766 billion in 2022. Merchandise exports were US\$453 billion, while services exports saw a 30% jump over 2021 to reach US\$313 billion in 2022. India is among the top investment destinations in Asia. In 2021, India was the 7th largest FDI recipient, with US\$45 billion in inflows (UNCTAD). In the same year, India captured almost 50% of the total R&D investment in developing Asia. India's continued high growth and exports are driven by several path-breaking reforms, starting with the implementation of the GST to the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme and measures to reduce logistics costs, such as the PM Gati-Shakti National Master Plan (PMGS-NMP) and the National Logistics Policy (NLP). The focus on the logistics sector has helped India to improve its ranking from 44 in 2018 to 38 (out of 139 countries) in 2023 in the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index 2023.

### India-Croatia bilateral relationship strengthening

In the past 12 months we have been able to strengthen our bilateral relations with many countries including with Croatia. The first ever visits to India by Croatian Foreign Minister Mr Radman, former President Mrs. Kitarovic, former S&T Minister Dr Primorac, Mayor of Rijeka Mr Filipovic, and MP Mr Hajdukovic, and visits to Zagreb in April & Dubrovnik in July by Minister Mrs Meenakashi Lekhi from India in 2023 are indicative of our growing partnership. The growth in our people to people ties especially in areas of 4 Ts of trade, technology, tourism, & talent has flourished. We expect the exponential growth in these areas in coming years as both India & Croatia expand their respective growth momentum due to strong platform where both our countries found themselves. Sports & Skills have emerged as key complimentary pillars between India & Croatia with more Croatian coaches contributing in diverse sports areas in India like football, tennis, table tennis, and shooting, whereas Indian skilled Human Resources contributing in Croatian economy in diverse sectors like hospitality, ship-building, construction, agriculture, and of course Information Technology. Read the full article here.

### With over 200 G20 meetings hosted, it is time for the biggest of them all. The 2023 G20 New Delhi summit is just 10 days away



India is planning to showcase its rich culture and diversity during its presidency of G20, through the means of cuisine, crafts, and culture along with an insight into its democratic roots and its progress made in the digital space. India is all set to host the G20 Summit scheduled to be held in New Delhi from September 9-10. World leaders will arrive in New Delhi to attend the G20 Summit. Muktesh Pardeshi, who is the Special Secretary and the head of operations and logistics of India's G20 secretariat, in an exclusive interview with ANI said that New Delhi is geared up with its preparations for the summit. Speaking to ANI, Muktesh Pardeshi said, "We are 10 days away from the event, an event we have been preparing from Day 1. We took over the presidency of G20 on December 1 last year. and since then we have been preparing for this mega event, the Leader's Summit...G20 comprises 19 countries and the European Union. Plus, we have given special invitations to nine more countries and some international organizations. There will be approximately 40 plus delegations that will arrive at the leader's level." "So, we will have Presidents, Prime Ministers, Foreign Ministers and top officials of different delegations, representing different countries. We are gearing up, we are giving final shape to the programmes," he added. The Special Secretary said that New Delhi has a twin agenda to showcase Indian culture, crafts and cuisine. He added that an experience panel has been created for delegates to experience how UPI payments are made, how the CoWin app was developed and how 1 billion people were connected with Aadhar. "That's part of you have seen the G20 meetings focusing on three C's. But there is one unmistakable aspect of our approach. We are going to showcase progress in the field of the digital sector. So there'll be an ... experience zone created to showcase the progress we have achieved in the field of technological transformation, particularly digital transformation," he said.

### **Ambassador's outreaches**

Ambassador Raj Kumar Srivastava received in the Embassy, Mr. Goran Kapicic, Infobip's director of business development and relationship for India and APAC. Infobip is the largest multinational ICT company in Croatia and the first Croatian unicorn, which currently has 5 offices in India. They discussed different business ideas based on long three decades experience of Mr Kapicic in Asia in Pharmaceuticals & ICT sectors.



Ambassador Srivastava participated at the Annual Boat (Lađa) Marathon between Metković & Ploče in Neretva river with the presence of President Of Croatia H.E. Mr. Yoran Milanovi' and in the company of Igor Štimac (the football coach of India's National Team).





Join the Lecture & Workshop "Health benefits of practising Ayurveda: Basic Self Pulse Diagnosis" about Nadi Pareeksha with a welcome speech by Raj Srivastava Ambassador of India to Croatia and Prof. Dr. Suresh Swarnapuri Europe Ayurveda Academy President & Hrvatski Ayurveda Institute.

September 15th, 2023, at 6 p.m., Cultural Center Napredak, Bogovićeva 1/I, Zagreb.

Confirm your arrival to the following e-mail:

eaa.croatiaayurveda@gmail.com



### **Unravelling India: A Croatian Quest**

Written by Luka Medvidović, a student at Zagreb School of Economics and Management

#### The culture

It was the 22nd of April. All the professors and assistants at the Zagreb School of Economics and Management were busy overseeing attendance exams, myself included. Before the day began, I had breakfast with the dean, Mato Njavro. After some casual conversation, he suddenly asked, "Would you like to spend the summer in India?" The offer caught me off guard, especially considering what I'd imagined about India. Still, I accepted. The thought of being so far from home for such a long time was intriguing, and I viewed it as a personal challenge. The days moved quickly, and before I knew it, I was on a plane to Indira Gandhi International Airport. The culture shock was intense. I had never seen such traffic in my life, and most of all, we had great difficulty even crossing the road. I began to think this was all a mistake. However, I soon started noticing something unfamiliar to me from back in Croatia: the abundance of young people. Everywhere I looked, I found people my age: walking on the streets, working in local stores, and offices. Making friends was easy, and we made many.



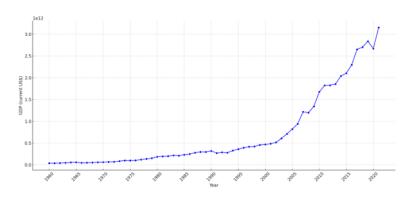
Locals with us at Jama Masjid, Delhi

The Taj Mahal

In the wake of the 1991 economic reforms, India's economy embarked on an explosive growth trajectory, swiftly transitioning from a protected, closed economy to a burgeoning global player. The dismantling of the 'License Raj', the welcoming of foreign direct investments, and the liberalisation of sectors previously dominated by the state catalysed a remarkable upsurge in the nation's GDP. This transformation was epitomised by the rise of the IT sector, turning cities like Bangalore into global tech hubs. While challenges persist, India's economic resurgence in the late 20th and early 21st centuries stand as a testament to the transformative power of policy reforms and adaptive governance.

And there we were, right in the thick of it, working at Invest India. You could feel the optimism in the air, the hope of ordinary people. While trying on shoes at a family-owned store, the owner shared stories of the incredible profits every store on the street was making, and probably not just this street. Everyone seemed to have a piece of this economic pie.

The elephant in the room



#### GDP of India (current US\$) from 1960 to 2022

### Wrapping It Up

India was nothing short of an adventure. From the moment I landed at the airport to the endless chats with locals, every day was a surprise. The streets were alive with stories, both ancient and new. The Taj Mahal wasn't just a monument; it was a tale of love and loss. And the young faces everywhere? They're the future, shaping India's next chapter. Interning at Invest India, I felt this change. As I packed my bags to head back to Croatia, I knew one thing for sure: India wasn't just a summer trip. It was a story I'd be telling for years.

# National Day Reception on the occasion of the 76th Anniversary of Independence Day in Zagreb which also marked the conclusion of 75 weeks long Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations

Ambassador Raj Kumar Srivastava hosted the National Day Reception on the occasion of the 76th Anniversary of Independence Day in Zagreb which also marked the conclusion of 75 weeks long Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations in which 100 cultural and 225 Yoga events were organized in Croatia.



Among the 150 distinguished guests of the evening, were Mr Željko Reiner, Deputy Speaker of the Croatian Parliament, H.E. Mr. Stjepan Mesić and Ivo Josipović, former Presidents of Croatia, Mr. Davor Ivo Stier & Mr. Davor Štern, former Foreign Ministers of Croatia, Member of the Prime Minister's Scientific Advisory Board and the Professor Emeritus of the National Forensic Science University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat Dr. Dragan Primorac and Mr Petar Mihatov, Director General for Political Affairs at Foreign & European Affairs of Croatia.











In his speech, Ambassador Srivastava pointed out India's global role in enhancing peace, progress, & prosperity driven by the motto of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (the whole world is one family). He also highlighted the exponential growth opportunities in India in the next 25 years of Amrit Kaal with the strength of 3 Ds of Democracy, Demography, & Diversity. He appreciated the positive role of the Indian Diaspora & Indian companies globally including in Croatia. Dr Mihatov underscored the importance of the leadership role of India in today's times of uncertainties. He also said that he doesn't consider India as a player but as a pillar. Dr Primorac hailed the universal wisdom coming from India on the one hand and great opportunities unfolding for the world with the growth momentum in New India. The guests witnessed the performance by Tihomir Hojsak on double bass and Filip Novosel on the Croatian traditional instrument – the tambura, also playing a fusion piece of India Konnakol & and Croatian Lindo. The duo would soon undertake their maiden visit to India in October.



On the occasion of the 76th Anniversary of Independence Day, Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav was marked with the participation of the Indian diaspora and friends of India in the Flag Hoisting ceremony.

HOC Mr Hemant Kumar Pandey unfurled the National Flag and read out Rashtrapatiji's message.





### **AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV**

President Indian Council For Cultural Relations Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe gave the keynote address at the 10th Dubrovnik International Conference on Sanskrit Epics & Puranas on the 76th anniversary of Independence Day of India at the final event of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav in Croatia at Inter University Centre Dubrovnik



A few quotes from his address: "It's a matter of great privilege and immense pleasure to be here to deliver this address on India's Independence Day. True that politically, we became independent some 75 years before on this day. But as people firmly believe in autonomy of the society, one can't deny the fact that invasions after invasions couldn't rob us of our liberal mind. The fact that we survived such onslaughts for several millennia as a cultural nation speaks volumes of the unfathomable strength of our culture and our traditions.



The centrality of culture to the idea of India just cannot be denied. From eternally relevant philosophical tenets to traditional knowledge and from classical arts to colorful practices Indian culture has multiple dimensions. One would wonder as to what remains if we take out culture from the idea of India. Similarly, Indian Culture minus its epics and Puranas leaves precious little for one to gather insights about India, Indian culture, and society."



The Sanskrit epics and Puranas are not relics of the past; they are living reservoirs of wisdom that continue to inspire and guide us in the twenty-first century, they are breathing narratives that continue to shape our identities, beliefs, and values. There are elements of modern management science in these epics. What Mahabharat, and particularly Shri Krishna tells us is all about relationship management, the art of negotiations, diplomacy as also commitment to fundamental human values. In Ramayana, we find lessons on sustainability, strategy and family values. Epics and Puranas remind us of our shared humanity, our struggles, and our aspirations. They provide us with a moral compass, philosophical insights, and a rich cultural heritage that connects us to our roots. As we navigate the complexities of the modern world, let us not forget the timeless lessons embedded in these narratives. One must realise that the wisdom of epics and Puranas is ever ageing but never old. Let us engage with them not as distant echoes but as resonating voices that guide us toward a more enlightened and compassionate future.



### **AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV**

### President of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe visited Dubrovnik

President of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe was given a bird's eye view of the rich heritage of the historical old town of Grad Dubrovnik by the Mayor's office. Dubrovnik-Goa connection of over 450 years ago was highlighted. Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe met also with Sanskrit scholars over dinner, participating in the 10th DICSEP. Sanskrit Epics & and Puranas are eternal sources of wisdom for humanity. Scholars from 15 countries have explored the inspiration emanating from divine texts in Dubrovnik on 14-19/08/23.



### **AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV**

### Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Celebration in Croatia with 325 events in the period of 75 weeks

- Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav 100 events organized in Croatia (LINK)
- Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav 225 YOGA & Ayurveda online and physical events in Croatia (LINK)



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Compiled by Embassy of India, Zagreb

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