



Newsletter



PM congratulates Jammu and Kashmir for 100% J&K UT villages achieving ODF Plus status



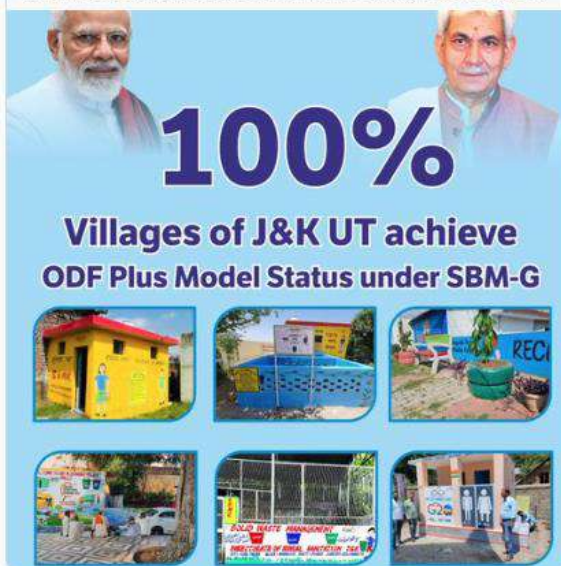
Narendra Modi
@narendramodi · Follow

Laudatory effort, for which I congratulate the people of Jammu and Kashmir. This is a monumental step in our journey towards a cleaner and healthier India.



Office of LG J&K · @OfficeOfLGJandK

Under guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi Ji, 100% J&K UT villages have achieved the ODF Plus status in 'Model' category under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) phase-II. This achievement underlines coordinated efforts of all to improve quality of life for citizens.



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has lauded Jammu and Kashmir for achieving 100 percent villages Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus status in the Model category under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) phase-2. In a social media post, PM Modi said, this is a monumental step in the journey towards a cleaner and healthier India. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has also congratulated the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

In a social media post, he said the Union Territory has attained new heights in development and growth after the abrogation of Article 370. He added that the schemes implemented by the Central Government are now being seamlessly extended to the nook and corners of Jammu and Kashmir. The Minister said people across the nation and those living in Jammu and Kashmir have experienced the transformative change the region has undergone.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 7th Edition of the India Mobile Congress 2023 at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan. India Mobile Congress (IMC)



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the 7th Edition of the India Mobile Congress 2023 on 27th October, 2023 at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. During the programme, the Prime Minister awarded 100 '5G Use Case Labs' to educational institutions across the country. These labs are being developed under the '100 5G labs initiative'.

The '100 5G labs initiative', is an endeavour to realise the opportunities associated with 5G technology by encouraging development of 5G applications which cater, both to India's unique needs as well as the global demands. The unique initiative will foster innovation across various socioeconomic sectors like education, agriculture, health, power, transportation etc, and propel the country into the forefront of usage of 5G technology. The initiative is also a pivotal step for building a 6G-ready academic and start-up ecosystem in the country. More importantly, the initiative is a step towards development of indigenous telecom technology which is critical for national security.

India Mobile Congress (IMC) is the largest telecom, media, and technology forum in Asia and was held from 27th to 29th October, 2023. The event acted as a platform to highlight India's incredible advancements in telecommunications and technology, bring forth significant announcements and provide an opportunity to start-ups to display their innovative products and solutions.

With the theme 'Global Digital Innovation,' the IMC 2023 aims to strengthen India's position as a developer, manufacturer, and exporter of key cutting-edge technologies. The three-day congress highlighted technologies such as 5G, 6G, and Artificial intelligence (AI) and discussed issues pertaining to the semiconductor industry, green technology, cybersecurity etc.

This year, IMC introduced a startup program - 'Aspire'. It will foster connections between startups, investors, and established businesses to catalyse fresh entrepreneurial initiatives and collaborations.

IMC 2023 will be attended by over one lakh participants from about 22 countries including about 5000 CEO level delegates, 230 exhibitors, 400 startups, and other stakeholders.

Croatia in India



18 months after the 1st visit of Ambassador Srivastava to Blato in Korčula, the knightly association Kumpanjija - Blato visited with a 16-member troupe in New Delhi and Kolkata to give 3 performances between the 18th and 23rd of October with the support of Indian Council For Cultural Relations. Ambassador Srivastava expressed, after receiving "Kumpanjija" President Stjepan Bačić, that the exposure of the first Croatian troupe visiting India after around 2 decades would create new opportunities for similar endeavours in the future.



Glimpses from the 19 October performance of troupe Kumpanjija - Blato at the Delhi International Dance and Music Festival 2023 in Azad Bhawan Auditorium / Red Fort, New Delhi. From Oct 18-20,2023 the Croatian troupe witnessed a celebration of global harmony through art with 3 unforgettable days of cultural exchange which would strengthen India-Croatia cultural ties.

Minister of Culture and Media of Croatia , Ph.D. Nina Obuljen Koržinek received a visit from the Knights' Association of Kumpanjija - Blato, which demonstrated the good practice of preserving intangible cultural heritage with its performances in the Republic of India.



The minister thanked the entire platoon of knights, led by the duke and the captain, and everyone who participated in this project for the preservation and promotion of Croatian intangible cultural heritage. The knightly association, preserving the tradition of the old Blato people's army, preserved in the ancient knight's game, presented part of the Croatian intangible cultural heritage at the 9th Indian International Folklore Festival of Dance and Music in Delhi and in Shillong, Meghalaya and Guwahati, Assam. The joint three-day part of the Festival in New Delhi began with the inauguration and the traditional lighting of the ceremonial light (diya), with speeches by the Festival's Program Director and ICCR President Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddha. At the end of each day, on which programs of four representatives of different countries were presented, in the choreography of Priya Venkantaraman, together with the Indian dance group, a joint choreography was presented with clips of music and dance from each of the countries present that day. After the program in Delhi, each of the visiting groups represented their country in two Indian states. The knightly association had three more performances in the states of Meghalaya and Assam, and they met with governors and local government representatives in both states.



During the stay of the Knights' Association in India, the satisfaction with the renewal of the activities of bringing the Croatian cultural heritage closer to the Indian audience, as well as with the continuation of the exchange of similar activities, was repeated several times. The visit of the Knights' Association was carried out at the invitation of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations and the Embassy of the Republic of India in the Republic of Croatia and in the co-organization of the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Croatia and the Embassy of the Republic of Croatia in India, and is based on the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Government of the Republic of India on cooperation in the field of culture, education, science, technology and sports and the cultural exchange program.

New India at work in diverse sports arenas

India shines brightly at the Asian Para Games 2023, setting a new record with their remarkable medal haul! 🥇🥈🥉🇮🇳

#AsianParaGames2023 #ProudMoment
#TeamIndia



MEDAL STANDINGS

RANK	TEAM/NPC	🥇	🥈	🥉	TOTAL
1	CHINA	214	167	140	521
2	ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	44	46	41	131
3	JAPAN	42	49	59	150
4	REPUBLIC OF KOREA	30	33	40	103
5	INDIA	29	31	51	111
6	INDONESIA	29	30	36	95
7	THAILAND	27	26	55	108
8	UZBEKISTAN	25	24	30	79
9	PHILIPPINES	10	4	5	19
10	HONG KONG, CHINA	8	15	24	47
11	KAZAKHSTAN	8	12	21	41
12	MALAYSIA	7	15	17	39
13	CHINESE TAIPEI	4	4	12	20
14	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	4	4	12	20
15	JORDAN	4	2	1	7



Magnificent hosting of ICC Cricket World Cup (5 Oct -19 Nov) in India going on with India unbeaten on top. Best cricketing action yet to come.



NEWS ON INDIA

India Set to Become Third-Largest Economy by 2030, S&P Report Reveals

India, the world's fifth-largest economy, is set to outpace Japan to become the third-largest economy by 2030 with an expected GDP of \$7.3 trillion, according to S&P Global Market Intelligence. The report cites India's growing middle class as a key driver of economic growth, making it an attractive destination for multinational corporations in various sectors. This rapid expansion will make India the second-largest economy in the Asia-Pacific region by 2030. India's GDP is projected to grow at 6.2-6.3% in the fiscal year ending in March 2024, solidifying its position as the fastest-growing major economy.



Mobile phone exports from India almost double by August '23

Mobile phone exports from India nearly doubled to reach US\$ 5.5 billion, approximately INR 45,700 crore, by August in FY24, according to estimates from the industry body ICEA. ICEA reported that mobile phone exports from India during the period April to August 2023 amounted to approximately US\$ 3 billion, or around INR 24,850 crore. Apple alone exported mobile phones worth more than INR 23,000 crore, constituting slightly over half of the total exports. Furthermore, the government has set an ambitious target of achieving US\$ 300 billion in electronics manufacturing by 2025-26, with US\$ 120 billion expected to come from exports. Mobile phones are anticipated to contribute more than US\$ 50 billion in exports by 2025-26.



IBM Joins Forces with Indian Government for Tech Innovation

Technology major IBM has announced a strategic partnership with the Indian government to foster innovation in artificial intelligence, semiconductor research, and quantum technologies. As part of the collaboration outlined in three MoUs with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, the two parties will undertake multiple initiatives. It is planned that IBM and the government will establish a national AI innovation platform that will leverage IBM's Watson X platform. This platform will focus on AI skill development, ecosystem building, and the integration of advanced foundation models and generative AI capabilities to bolster India's scientific, commercial, and human capital advancement in AI. Also, IBM will collaborate with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) to support India's national quantum mission. Furthermore, IBM will share its expertise with the Indian Semiconductor Mission (ISM), an organization aimed at positioning India as a major player in the global semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem. This collaboration will encompass research and development, skill enhancement, and chip design to create world-class semiconductors.



India's E-commerce industry to reach US\$ 300 bn by 2030: Redseer

The Indian E-commerce industry is expected to witness a fivefold growth to reach US\$ 300 billion by 2030, according to a report from Redseer. Additionally, the report claims a substantial increase in the volume of shipments handled by third-party logistics providers, potentially reaching 17 billion within the next seven years. According to the findings, this expansion in the third-party logistics (3PL) sector is expected to lead to a 23% reduction in the cost per shipment. This cost is projected to decrease from INR 60 in 2023 to INR 47 by 2030. The report further highlights that E-commerce, often referred to as e-tailing, in India is poised for remarkable growth, with expectations that it will soar from US\$ 59 billion to US\$ 300 billion between 2022 and 2030.



Ambassador Srivastava interview at Dalmatinski portal

Three years ago, Raj Kumar Srivastava became the Ambassador of India to Croatia. By profession, he is a civil engineer specializing in earthquake science, and he joined the diplomatic service in 1997. Behind him are mandates in the Indian embassies in Madrid, Yangon, Vienna, Brasilia and Tokyo. Ambassador Srivastava spent two days in Split, which he visited several times during his diplomatic service in Croatia.

- I believe that the whole idea of human life is based on research, not only of the outside world but of what is inside each of us. There must be some reason why I am in Croatia, based on my past, which includes my genetic code, from my mother, grandmother and so on to the history of the creation of the first human cells 84 thousand years ago. If I think like that, the significance of my being in a certain place is a small incident, which happens because of all the previous events. This is how we should think to see how people are connected, like one family. - said Ambassador Srivastava, who visited Split for the first time three years ago, and each visit to Split was tied to some business, among others, getting to know the mayor and companies related to India, such as Brodosplit, which employs about two hundred Indians.

- It is an important company not only for Split but for the whole of Croatia. She had her ups and downs, but Tomislav Debeljak is truly a good friend, we met several times...Tomislav also built a cricket club according to the wishes of the Indian workers of Brodosplit. - said Mr. Srivastava whose aim, as he says, is to connect Indians and Croats and introduce our people to their culture and customs.

According to data from August 28, 10,562 Indians are living in Croatia, and that number three years ago was significantly lower, only 250 Indians lived in Croatia. The number has increased because many have found jobs, His Excellency points out, especially in the 'blue' sector, which includes shipbuilding, construction, food delivery and catering. Mate Rimac also employed people from India, 50 of them work as mechanical engineers, and there are also Indians in the IT sector in Croatia.

- India is becoming the world's leading country. We have changed the educational policy, students are more oriented towards developing skills, so that they learn already during education, and not at workplaces. - he concludes and adds that people come to India to learn about themselves.

In Croatia, he made many friendships, such as the one with football coach Igor Štimac, who is the coach of the Indian national football team, and he also enjoys spending time with singer Goran Karan.

- I learned everything about football from Igor Štimac and I accept his advice, and the Croatian national team is excellent, I supported you during the World Cup. I have several friendships in sports, because I play golf, and a little bit of cricket. Stipe Božić is also a very good friend of mine, we did several seminars together. Goran Karan once came to my embassy and together we developed a song about the 75 years of India's independence. During the vegetarian lunch, we wrote a poem. We sat and looked around. We talked about how a picture speaks a thousand words, and I asked what a thousand pictures would mean and concluded that the answer might be a song. - Ambassador Srivastava revealed and added that the song they wrote is about a kiss because a kiss is a blessing and how only love can make the world for one family.

India, he says, has made tremendous progress in the past ten years. They do not worry about what the GDP will be, because he points out, it will certainly be better, if people do the right things, because people are the best resource of this country. As an example, he gave Brazil, which has agriculture, North Africa has mining resources, Russia has oil and fuel resources, China has production, and India has people. He says that for this reason, special investments are made in the IT sector because it requires human brains.

Read the full interview at the following link: <https://dalmatinskiportal.hr/vijesti/veleposlanik-indije--sve-o-nogometu-saznam-od-igora-stimca--a-s-goranom-karanom-sam-napisao-pjesmu-/182892>

Ambassador's outreaches

Ambassador Srivastava received H.E. Mr. Stjepan Mesić, Former President of Croatia prior to his 10th trip to India. Mr. Mesić witnessed New India's transformation, especially in Uttar Pradesh, in his recent trips and is also looking forward to participating at the 24th International Conference of Chief Justices of the World organised by the City Montessori School in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. Ambassador Srivastava briefly conveyed to the former president that India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) is empowering people in the largest democracy on the planet and highlighted that about 45% of the global digital transactions today take place in India. He also gifted a book on PM Narendra Modi to the former President.



Ambassador Srivastava participated at the premiere screening of a movie in Bjelovar during the DOKUart Festival movie "Call me a Dancer", a documentary film made by Leslie Shampaine and Pip Gilmour, a life story of an Indian young man who succeeded in reaching the top stages of the world with his dancing talent.



A session of knowledge & wisdom with Paramahansa Vishwananda' followed by the musical programme at Youth Theatre in Split on 07/10/2023. "Importance of devotion, teacher, inclusiveness, oneness with people & nature all explained simply & convincingly in 90 minutes." A blissful evening with 200 attendees full of positive energy.



A Session on Knowledge and Wisdom on Pranayama Jthe participation of Raj Srivastava Ambassador of India to Croatia and Yogacharya Jadranko Mikleć & Joginder Singh-Nijjar President, Croatian-Indian Society.



Ayurveda in Opatija

The Ministry of Ayush, Government of India delegation from All India Institute of Ayurveda, New Delhi & Ayush Govt. of Assam, India participated in the "Ayurveda in Opatija" event on 25th October with Ayurvedic consultations and lectures for the employees of Thalassotherapy Opatija and local stakeholders interested in India's traditional health care system. Ambassador Srivastava pointed out the significance of Ayurveda and praised the interest of Croats in India's traditional healthcare system. The President of the Kvarner Health Tourism Cluster dr. Vladimir Mozetič and Director of Thalassotherapy Opatija Dr. Viktor Peršić also highlighted the therapeutical treatments of India's Traditional Healthcare system which is being implemented on demand of the Tourists in several facilities in Croatia.



The event was successfully concluded with a Millet-based reception for the attendees.

At the 11th CIHT Conference in Crikvenica, Croatia held on 26 October & organized by the Kvarner Health Tourism Cluster, its MoU partner All India Institute of Ayurveda, & Ministry of Ayush, Government of India participated for the first time



During the conference, Ambassador Srivastava highlighted the importance of Yoga & and Ayurveda as universal wisdom which are important to understand the meaning of human life with simple basic facts like five elements & and five senses and creating balance and awareness about the body constitution for healthy living in harmony with nature. He also highlighted the importance of the human-centric governance model which has witnessed inclusive sustainable growth and efficiency in the Indian economy in the past decade including in healthcare where traditional systems are becoming household stories of daily lives reducing public expenditure on medical expenses. This movement would only accelerate in times to come and India is sharing its experience with like-minded countries like in Kvarner Cluster in Croatia. He explained that once you understand the concept of Yoga & and Ayurveda, the all round prevalent seminars of mindfulness, emotional intelligence, ego control, & stress reduction would not be needed and three common treatments related to- Anxiety (Vata dosha) Metabolism (Pitta dosha), & Stamina (Kapha dosha) could be done through simple natural methods of Ayurveda.



The first presentation on “Panchakarma and Skin Diseases & Ayurveda in the Management of Non – Non-communicable diseases“, by Prof. Dr Anandaraman Sharma, All India Institute of Ayurveda, India showcased multiple case studies of successful fast treatment in a few weeks by Panchkarma of difficult & chronic skin disease patients, which are published in international healthcare journals.



The second presentation on “Yoga for Health and Wellness“ by Dr Indranoshee Das, Director, AYUSH, Govt. of Assam, India presented the benefits of Yoga for all ages including for differently abled children as implemented in Assam. Read more about the conference at the following [link](#).

Digital India

India at the panel discussion at AI2 Future conference organized by CroAI Croatian AI Association

Good panel discussion at AI2Future conference organized by CroAI Croatian AI Association on the role of regulation & importance of inclusion in AI as it transforms the way human activities are conducted. India's multi-stakeholder's approach in facilitating AI for All for innovation, inclusion, and creating societal benefits with regulations based on key principles with a human-centric approach would help achieve the transformational potential of AI for the humanity. India's Digital Public Infrastructure is democratizing the opportunities for the people of India and partner countries where DPI concepts are being facilitated. India & EU have convergence on principles governing AI, complementarity in demography, and cooperation in technology, for harnessing AI's potential. Great opportunities lie ahead of India and the European union.



AI2FUTURE

The Role of (Un)predictable AI: Navigating Uncertainty and Leveraging Opportunities

DAY 1 - 10.40 - 11.30, Conference Room



Martina Sillov
moderator



Fabien Fieschi
Ambassador of France



Juan González-Barba Pera
Ambassador of Spain



Raj Kumar Srivastava
Ambassador of India



Helen Walker-Fleming
UK Deputy Head of Mission

Digital India

Ambassador Srivastava's presentation of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) in India at the Smart Industry 2023 conference of Poslovni Dnevnik organized on 12-13 October in the City of Šibenik

"The second day of the Smart Industry Business Journal conference, which was held in Šibenik, was opened by Ambassador Srivastava who revealed the secret of the digital transformation of a country where in 2008 only 20 percent of the population had a bank account. Today, 45 percent of global digital transactions take place in India, and India's expertise in using technology to drive socio-economic development is now recognized worldwide.

"India has built a digital public infrastructure (DPI) that includes a digital identification layer called Aadhar, a payment system that works as a Unified Payment Interface and data exchange platform. As the ambassador pointed out, the combination of these interventions transformed the Indian economy, boosted productivity, and supported equitable growth, and India's DPI is supported by several countries and international organizations, such as the International Monetary Fund and recently the G20 India."

Watch the full presentation by Ambassador Srivastava at the following [link](#).



Ambassador Srivastava was welcomed by Krapina - Zagorje county Prefect Mr. Željko Kolar and Director of the Entrepreneurship Center of Krapina - Zagorje County Mrs. Helena Matuša at the **Business - Technology Incubator in Krapina** and was presented with the economy, strategic projects of the Krapina - Zagorje County and the investment opportunities of "Invest in Zagorje". Ambassador Srivastava expressed satisfaction with his visit to the Krapina-Zagorje County and said that he was in Krapina for the first time. "Such interactions are very important because we share information about possibilities and opportunities. This is also our job, to create connections and use diplomacy for development. I am glad to see that you are doing a great job in the field of healthcare and startups," said the Ambassador.



Mahatma Gandhi's 154th birth anniversary was celebrated in Zagreb. Ambassador Srivastava recalled Mahatma's teachings which still impact humankind to further the spirit of unity and compassion. His ideals of cleanliness, self-reliance, and democracy are guiding many of the development programs of the Government of India today. His idea that "Democracy is the art & science of galvanising people's physical, economic, and spiritual strength, for making the country prosperous & stronger" is visible when you see India as the largest & oldest democracy on the planet.



Cultural activities & outreaches in the month of October

The Session on Knowledge & Wisdom on "Theory of Karma" with Ambassador Srivastava, Mr Joginder Singh Nijjar, President of the Croatian-Indian Society, and Prabhupad Srila Premgopal Goswami was held at Napredak on 10th October. on how the executed actions of an individual affect the individual. Srila Premgopal Goswami explained the Theory of Karma as similar to the action-reaction law of motion and defined the differences between good actions and bad actions by the yardstick of whether they are undertaken to help others or for fulfilling individual desires & and benefits. The ultimate objective is a feeling of oneness and "Vasudhaiva Kutumbkam" - like the motto of the G20 Indian Presidency - "One Earth, One Family, One Future"



Translation and interpretation of Shri Ram Charit Manas in the Croatian language by Croatian citizen and Indian lover Swami Dnyaneshwar Puri completed his diligence while living in India in the last decade which was unveiled on 13/10/2023 at a ceremony at the Public Library of Zagreb.



Ambassador Srivastava joined with the bestseller author Zoran Salopek on Eastern and Western perspectives and underpinning in conversation the meaning of spirituality, the importance of combining intuition with intellect, simplifying emotional intelligence by understanding the universe within and connecting it to the universe outside, and the power of meditation to bring us back to the present moment and experience the life as it is. We also talked about the human-centric approach to policymaking as the most effective method of governance including in foreign policy.





Interliber

7. - 12. 11. 2023.



Autor svjetskog hita
„Milijunaš s ulice“
na Interliberu

Vikas Swarup



Interliber s ponosom najavljuje gostovanje svjetski poznatog pisca i indijskog diplomata, Vikasa Swarupa po čijem je romanu „Q&A“ nastao poznati, višestruko nagrađivani i Oscarom ovjenčani film „Milijunaš s ulice“.

Pozivamo vas na susret s autorom „The Talk: Vikas Swarup“ 7. studenog u 18.00 sati u paviljonu 7 Zagrebačkog velesajma.

Moderator: Jasen Boko
književnik, dramaturg, putopisac i novinar

Dolazak Vikasa Swarupa na Interliber jedinstvena je prilika za sve ljubitelje knjiga da se susretnu uživo s autorom koji je osvojio srca čitatelja cijelog svijeta svojom dirljivom i inspirativnom pričom.

BIOGRAFIJA

Osim knjige „Milijunaš s ulice“ napisao je još „The Accidental Apprentice“ i „Six Suspects“.

U svojoj diplomatskoj karijeri obnašao je dužnost u Turskoj, Sjedinjenim Američkim Državama, Etiopiji, Ujedinjenom Kraljevstvu i Južnoj Africi.

Vikas Swarup voli slušati glazbu, igrati kriket, tenis i stolni tenis.

Nakon razgovora s publikom uslijedit će potpisivanje knjige „Milijunaš s ulice“

(nakladnik Znanje) 

Pokrovitelji



U suradnji



Medijski partner



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Compiled by
Embassy of India, Zagreb

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