



Embassy of India, Zagreb

Newsletter

Prime Minister's address at the COP-28 Presidency's Session on 'Transforming Climate Finance'



Excellencies,

Under its G-20 presidency, India has given high priority to the two topics of sustainable development and climate change.

We made 'One Earth, One Family, One Future' the basis of our presidency.

And through joint efforts, we also succeeded in reaching consensus on many topics.

Friends,

We all know that the role of all the countries of the Global South, including India, has been very less in climate change.

But the ill effects of climate change are much greater on them. Despite lack of resources, these countries are committed to climate action.

Climate finance and technology are essential to meet the aspirations of the Global South. The countries of the Global South expect the developed countries to help them as much as possible to combat climate change. This is both natural and justified.

Read the full speech [here](#).

During the GPAI Summit inauguration in New Delhi, PM Modi highlighted that India is the main player in the field of AI talent and AI-related ideas



The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) Summit at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The Prime Minister also took a walk-through of the Global AI Expo. GPAI is a multi-stakeholder initiative with 29 member countries aiming to bridge the gap between theory and practice on AI by supporting cutting-edge research and applied activities on AI-related priorities. India is the lead chair of GPAI in 2024.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister expressed delight in India chairing the GPAI Summit 2024 at a time when the entire world is debating about artificial intelligence. Noting both the positive and the negative aspects that are emerging, the Prime Minister underlined the responsibility enshrined upon each nation and recalled interacting with various industry leaders of AI and having discussions regarding GPAI Summit. He stated that AI has had an impact on every country, be it small or big and suggested moving forward with caution. Prime Minister Modi underlined that the discussion at GPAI Summit will give direction and secure the fundamental roots of humanity.

Stressing the importance of AI, the PM said that AI is becoming the biggest basis for sculpting the new future. As AI can connect people, it not only ensures economic development but it ensures equality and social justice. He emphasized the need to make AI more inclusive and said that “the more inclusive, the development journey of AI, the more inclusive will be the results.” He mentioned the unequal access to technology in the last century further accentuating inequality in the society. To avoid this, the Prime Minister asked that democratic values should not be neglected in technology to make it an inclusion multiplier. “Direction of AI development will totally depend on human and democratic values. It is up to us to keep a place for emotions along with efficiency, ethics along with effectiveness”, he said.

The summit witnessed the participation of 50+ GPAI experts and 150+ speakers from across the countries. Further, Top AI Gamechangers from across the world will be participating in different events including Intel, Reliance Jio, Google, Meta, AWS, Yotta, Netweb, Paytm, Microsoft, Mastercard, NIC, STPI, Immerse, Jio Haptik, Bhashini etc. Besides, students who are winners under YUVA AI initiative and start-ups showcased their AI models and solutions. [Source](#).

Renewal of the Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP) between the Govt. of the Republic of India and the Govt. of the Republic of Croatia for the years 2023-25



The renewal of the Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP) between the Govt. of the Republic of India and the Govt. of the Republic of Croatia for the years 2023-25 was signed on the 15th December 2023 between the Croatian Minister for Culture and Media H.E. Ms. Nina Obuljen Koržinek and Ambassador of India to Croatia, H.E. Mr. Raj Kumar Srivastava, on behalf of GOI.

The CEP which was signed at the premises of the Ministry of Culture and Media Croatia is a significant continuation towards bolstering India-Croatia ties. The briefing between the two officials was concluded with the exchange of relevant information but also the exchange of the visiting troupes from 2021-24, including Indian Council For Cultural Relations sponsored troupes PAARA-DOX – Terence Lewis Indo-Contemporary Dance Company, Arnab Bhattacharya duo, Bhoomika, Rajasthani Panihari Lok Sangeet Group & future visit of "Asian Punjabi Folk Dance Group" to the Rijeka Carnival in 2024.

The Minister also expressed the satisfaction of the Croatian troupes visiting India, such as the knightly association Kumpanjija from Blato, acclaimed virtuosos, Tihomir Hojsak and Filip Novosel, saying that people-to-people ties are an important pillar of the India-Croatia Cultural Exchange Programme.



Croatia in India:

From the 4th to the 6th, the conference "Knowledge India: Visitors Programme" was held in New Delhi, organized by ICCR



From the 4th to the 6th December, the conference "Knowledge India: Visitors Programme" was held in New Delhi, organized by the Indian Council For Cultural Relations. The conference was dedicated to promoting Indian knowledge systems outside of India and brought together 77 representatives of departments of Indology, South Asian, Buddhist, Sanskrit and Hindi studies from 35 countries. Professor Ivan Andrijanić represented the Department of Indology and far Eastern Studies at the event. Numerous friends and colleagues attended the conference.

On December 4th, the keynote speech was delivered by the Minister of Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, Dr. S. Jaishankar. The conference was concluded with a speech by the Minister of Education and Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in the Government of India, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan. The Department of Indology and far Eastern Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Social Science, University of Zagreb thanked the Embassy of India, Zagreb and Ambassador Srivastava. Also, the department congratulated ICCR for its flawless organization and exceptional hospitality.



India's National Parks

With its wide range of environmental and wildlife diversity, India has a lot to offer to nature enthusiasts. There are more than 100 national parks in India, and each has its charm. They are one of the best places to watch animals in their natural habitat and relish the peaceful joy that comes with it.



New India at work in diverse sports arenas

India's biggest sporting moments of 2023:



The year 2023 marked a significant paradigm shift for Indian sports. With an unprecedented medal haul at the Asian Games and many firsts across several world championship events, India firmly established its reputation as an emerging force on the global platform. The collective success in 2023 will also serve as both inspiration and a blueprint for Indian athletes looking to compete at the Paris 2024 Olympics. Here are the sports highlights of 2023:

R Praggnanandhaa makes the right moves

Indian chess Grandmaster Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa, at just 18 years old, became the youngest player to reach the FIDE World Cup final in August, following an incredible run where he defeated world No. 2 Hikaru Nakamura and world No. 3 Fabiano Caruana. Praggnanandhaa is only the second Indian to reach the final after India's first grandmaster, Viswanathan Anand.

Stellar show at the Asian Games

With a record haul of 107 medals that included 28 gold, 38 silvers and 41 bronze, India set a new benchmark at the Hangzhou Asian Games 2023. It was the first time in Asian Games history that India's medals tally crossed the three-figure mark.

Read about other [achievements of New India in diverse sports arenas in 2023](#).

INDIA'S BEST LONG JUMPERS IN 2023

MENS:
JESWIN ALDRIN
(8.42m)
M.SREESHANKAR
(8.41m)
MD ANEES YAHYA
(8.15m)

WOMENS:
SHAILI SINGH
(6.76m)
ANCY SOJAN
(6.63m)
NAYANA JAMES
(6.53m)





Koneru Humpy secures silver medal at Women's World Rapid Championships 2023

INDIA'S TOP 5 JAVELIN THROWERS IN 2023

NAME	THROW
NISHU CHOPRA	88.88m
KISHOR JENA	87.54m
OF MANU	84.33m
ROHIT YADAV	83.40m
SHIVBIR SINGH	81.96m

NEWS ON INDIA

Indian Startups Soar: December 2023 Sees Over \$1.5 Billion in Funding Surge.

December 2023 has emerged as the most active month for risk capital investors, with funding announcements surpassing US\$ 1.5 billion. Tracxn's data reveals that this figure outstrips January's \$1.4 billion, previously the highest for the year. This surge is attributed to a few substantial deals, including the US\$ 600 million investment in the e-commerce marketplace Flipkart by the US-based retail giant Walmart. Other notable transactions in December include the US\$ 340 million fundraise by the B2B e-commerce marketplace Udaan, led by UK savings and investment firm M&G Prudential. GreyOrange, a warehouse automation startup, also secured a noteworthy US\$ 135 million funding round led by Anthelion Capital.

#startupindia

Auto Component Industry Set to Invest \$7 Billion in Next 5 Years.

The automotive component industry is gearing up to invest approximately US\$ 6.5 to 7 billion in the next five years for capacity expansion and technological upgrades, anticipating sustained strong demand during this period, according to the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA). In the first half (April-September) of the current fiscal, the industry achieved a remarkable 12.6% year-on-year revenue growth, amounting to INR 2.98 trillion. Foreseeing continued double-digit sales growth in the remainder of the current fiscal year and the upcoming financial year, the industry is proactively investing in higher value-addition, technology upgrades, and localisation to cater to domestic and international customers.



India Leads Top 10 Economies in Post-COVID Resilience

In the years following the pandemic (2022, 2023), India has emerged as the most resilient economy among the top ten global economies, according to an analysis conducted by the PHD Research Bureau and the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI). The research report, titled "Geopolitical Spillovers and Resilience of the Indian Economy," focused on key economic indicators, including GDP growth, export growth, total investment, gross national savings, and the debt-to-GDP ratio. Experts attributed India's increased resilience in the post-pandemic years to effective economic reforms undertaken by the government. They referred to International Monetary Fund data predicting that India's economy would maintain its strong trajectory, securing the first position in terms of resilience in 2024 and 2025. The futuristic resilient trajectory is expected to place India at the forefront, followed by China, Russia, Germany, France, Canada, Japan, Italy, the USA, and the UK. The experts also anticipated that the Indian economy's size would exceed US\$ 4 trillion by 2024-25, reach US\$ 5 trillion by 2026-27, and achieve US\$ 7 trillion by 2030.



Gen AI Poised to Boost India's Economy by \$1.2-1.5 Trillion: EY Report

A new report by EY, titled 'The Aldea of India: Generative AI's impact on India's digital growth,' suggests that Generative AI has the potential to significantly enhance India's economy by \$1.2-1.5 trillion in the next seven years. According to the analysis, India could contribute an additional US\$ 359–438 billion to its economy in the fiscal year 2029–30 if Gen AI technology is fully harnessed across various sectors, resulting in a 5.9%–7.2% increase in GDP compared to the baseline. The report identifies that 69% of the anticipated impact will stem from business services, financial services, education, retail, and healthcare sectors. Improved employee productivity, operational efficiency, and more robust customer engagement are key contributors to this impact.



Lecture on Economic Diplomacy



University of Zagreb
Faculty of Economics & Business

Certificate

for the guest lecture given to the students of the Integrated undergraduate and graduate university study programme „Business Economics“, is awarded to

H. E. Ambassador Raj Kumar Srivastava

The lecture entitled *Economic Diplomacy in India* as part of the *Economic Diplomacy* course was held on December 7, 2023.

[Signature]
Vice Dean for Strategic Partnerships and Projects
Prof. Kozjeković Damir, PhD

Ambassador Srivastava had the pleasure to speak to senior students Faculty of Economics & Business Zagreb on economic diplomacy. An interactive session of 60 minutes created an opportunity of exchanges on India's role in strengthening human-centric growth, globalisation, and governance and thereby contributing positively in global peace, progress, & prosperity, noted the Ambassador. Topics that we covered ranged from Food & Nutrition security, to Manufacturing policy, from the Services sector to the role of technology in the next phase of growth globally and in India, Digital India, Skill India, Startup India, AI, Green Hydrogen, EV, Multipolarity, and Foreign Policy. Increased interest among the youth of Croatia about the largest democracy on the planet.

Embassy's AYUSH Cell Virtual Session



The Fortnightly Zagreb AYUSH cell session was held on 7th December with the guest speakers Dr Pt. Dinesh Chandra Sati, Ambassador Srivastava and Yogacharya Jadranko Miklec on the topic “Vedic Astrology”. Dr. Pt. Dinesh Chandra Sati: Distinguished in the ancient Shankaracharya Tradition, Dr. Pt. Dinesh Chandra Sati, head of the Himalayan Research Institute, offers global Jyotish consultations and Vedic traditions training. With a Ph.D. in Jyotish and over 32 years of experience, he brings profound insights from the Himalayas to individuals worldwide.

India's program was the highlight of the Food and Healthy Living Fair with Yoga & Ayurveda workshops and collective music and dance performances

India's program was the highlight of the Food and Healthy Living Fair with Yoga & Ayurveda workshops and collective music and dance performances. The attendees of the Fair had also a chance to try Indian cuisine and find out more about Indian ayurvedic products, available in Croatia and opportunities to discover themselves through Ayurvedic treatments in India. At the inaugurational speech, Ambassador Srivastava also mentioned that the opening of the Fair coincided with the ending of International Year of Millets 2023 & G20 India's presidency whose motto Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, which translates to "One Earth, One Family, One Future," is also a mindset matter where we see our existential reality which is of Unity.



Libertas University Podcast with the first diplomat guest of the show, invited Ambassador of India to Croatia

Watch the latest podcast "Libertas" Talks with the first diplomat guest of the show, Ambassador Srivastava on Diplomacy. Amb. explained India's role in strengthening human-centric growth, globalisation, & governance and thereby contributing positively to global peace, progress, & prosperity. The last 10 years have transformed India into New India through a mindset change towards self-reliance which is visible in every aspect of its actions. In Foreign policy, PM Modi's mantra of 5Ss - Samman (respect), Samvad (dialogue), Sahyog (cooperation), Shanti (peace), & Samriddhi (prosperity) are visible in India's positions and initiatives globally. India's strategic partnership with countries is built on pillars of convergence, cooperation, complementarity, trust, & transparency. Space defence, counterterrorism, climate change, food & energy security, are some of the key areas which define the structure of these carefully built strategic partnerships which are aimed to make the world a better place. Also, the influence of Technology is immensely influencing the global world, including the progress of AI and therefore, new skills by young talents are important, including in diplomacy which is increasingly focused on development more than defence & security. India's experience has demonstrated that "democracy can deliver" and "democracy should not only be by the people, for the people, of the people, but also within the people & with the people", as said by PM Modi at UN in 2022. [LINK](#)



Integration of artificial intelligence in the Indian economy



Amb Srivastava was invited for a special interview at the AI Conference "Artificial Intelligence and Cyber Security in the Economy," organized by Croatian Chamber of Economy in Zagreb.

Key points from the interview:

1. India is going to witness continuous economic growth in the next 25 years due to multiple positive factors.
2. AI is going to be an important pillar in this long growth phase as India has already established the foundation blocks for "Responsible AI for All" under the visionary leadership of PM Modi. In 2016 launched trinity of [Digital India](#), [Startup India](#), and [Skill India](#) programs are now providing the strong foundation for building the strong edifice of Developed India by 2047.
3. India's regulatory framework for the Digital ecosystem is evolving with multi multi-stakeholder approach so that it can facilitate AI's opportunities for Digital citizens of India with security & privacy.
4. We don't see AI with fear or greed at all, we see it as a tool to make qualitative improvements in human life experience. And that's why we prioritise democratising the developmental opportunities of AI for people.
5. AI is not magic but pure math? - Actually, the language of the Universe itself is Math, Universe is tried to be explained by Physics but not successfully because the non-Physics part that is Metaphysics is left unattended. In other words Intellect-based models that AI is dependent on would be taken away slowly from mankind, and intuition and feel-based models would become the forte of humanity. Isn't that how it should be.



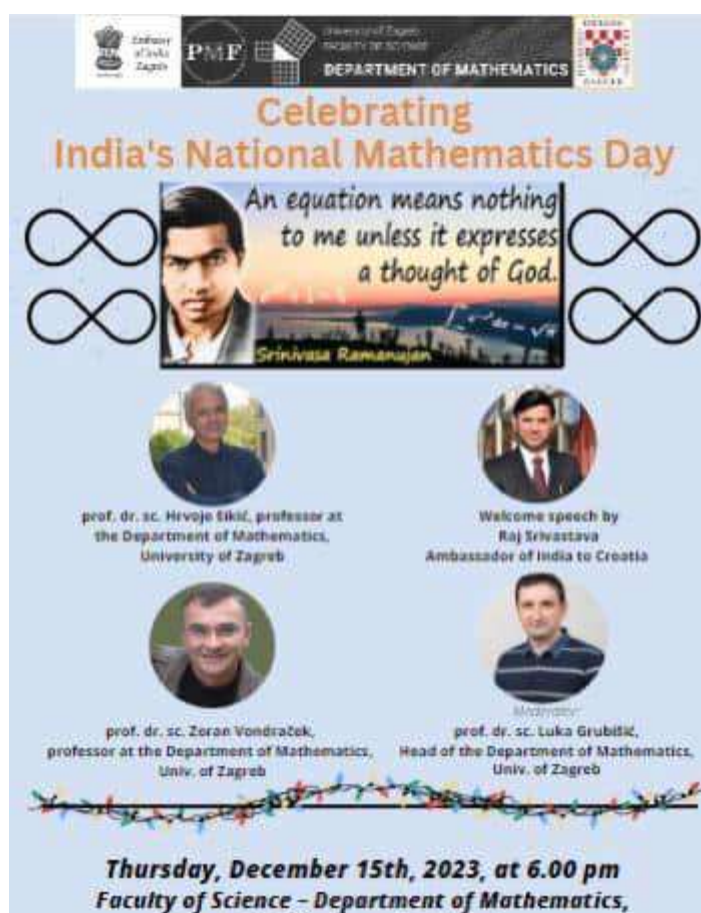
The City of Bjelovar & Mayor Dario Hrebak invited Ambassador Srivastava to the Bjelovar IT Conference 2023, held on 9th December



The City of Bjelovar and Mayor Dario Hrebak invited Ambassador Srivastava to the Bjelovar IT Conference 2023, held on 9th December, where he could witness the positive energy of the ecosystem that has been built in the town of less than 40000 people with the Mayor's and City visionary leadership, hard work, and risk-taking capacity for the people's better future. Amb shared during the conference the unparalleled success of PM Modi's visionary leadership in India through Digital India, Startup India and Skill India programs launched 7 years ago which are making New India today the best place for innovation, business, and technology creation but with a focus on human-centric growth, globalisation, & governance. Similarly, India's Techade ahead would be driven by our vision of INDIAai, Green Hydrogen India, EV India, and ISRO - Indian Space Research Organisation.



Celebrating India's National Mathematics Day @ University of Zagreb



On the occasion of India's National Mathematics Day which is celebrated every year on 22 December on the birth anniversary of legendary Indian Mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan, a seminar was held at the Faculty of Science, Department of Mathematics, where the beauty of mathematics as seen by Ramanujan as the thought of God was presented, and connections between Indian & Croatian mathematicians were described. Mathematics as the language of the universe naturally has connected people of the two countries, in the same way as Sanskrit is seen in deep-meaning words in Croatian language. People-to-people ties get stronger by recognizing different fields where we work together and where we see common heritage.



Scientific forum Expanding the Human Knowledge Frontiers through Quantum & Space Science – „Bridging Science & Spirituality“



Ambassador Srivastava participated in the Forum Expanding the Human Knowledge Frontiers through Quantum & Space Science: “Indian & Croatian experience” at Napredak on the 4th of December. The event witnessed several lectures by Prof. Ivo Orlić, an independent researcher with the theme “Bridging Science & Spirituality, Mr. Ante Radonić, Croatian astronomer on “India's space probes & launch vehicles” Mr. Slobodan Danko Bosanac, Croatian physicist on “Deep space challenges”. Ambassador Srivastava mentioned, during his presentation that scientific models are created to explain the physical reality only to be overtaken by better models as human knowledge takes quantum leap and doing so many global scientists have taken inspiration and guidance from Indian Vedic knowledge which is truly the manual of this Universe. He gave examples of Niels Bohr, Heisenberg, Schrödinger, Einstein, Hans Durr, Brian David Josephson, & of Nikola Tesla. Universe within & Universe outside are infinite and connected and to understand them better the human knowledge frontiers need to be expanded not only by intellect but more importantly by intuition & sixth sense. The event was also Co-hosted by Mr Joginder Singh-Nijjar President, of the Croatian Indian Society and attended by 60 guests.



“India in Croatia” Forthcoming Exhibitions in Rijeka and Zagreb in January 2024



Embassy of India and Maritime and History Museum of the Croatian Littoral Rijeka invite you to the opening of the exhibition

ONE DISTRICT, ONE PRODUCT

on Tuesday, January 23rd 2024 at 6 PM in Grand atrium of Maritime and History Museum of the Croatian Littoral Rijeka, Trg Riccarda Zanelle 1, Rijeka.

We are looking forward to your visit!

The exhibition will be open until February 29th 2024.



“Creating Bridges through Art” Competition artworks from the Students of ŠPUD will be exhibited at the prestigious Nikola Tesla Technical Museum, Zagreb from the 26th Jan. 2024, showcasing India through 5 themes:

1) The World is One Family



PM Modi's call for 'One Earth, One Family, One Future' to undergird India's efforts: India at UN

2) India's Transformation & Space Research for Humanity



3) How to use Technology for your Advantages



4) Nikola Tesla – Bharat



5) Mission Life



From Ambassador's desk



Photo: Ured Predsjednika RH,
Tomislav Bušljeta

As we move from year 2023 to 2024, I am happy that this newsletter has completed three years in this form, bringing our readers abreast with developments in India and in India-Croatia bilateral relationship. This included, among others, the G-20 Presidency of India, Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations of 75 years of Indian Independence, India's successes in multiple fields including space & sports, and over 300 events that we organized in Croatia showcasing our convergence in Democracy, complementarity in Demography, & commonality in Diversity.

In new year we would continue to bring our readers stories from New India which is poised for transformational journey towards all-round development creating opportunities for friends from partner countries like Croatia.

We are changing the front cover of this newsletter in new year to highlight what is new and most highlightable in New India. Three themes are summarized in our front cover - 1. Under the shadow of world's tallest statue, Statue of Unity, New India has moved from Divide & Rule to Unite & Serve, 2. New India is focused on harnessing and promoting its 3D Dividend of Democracy, Demography, & Diversity, & 3. For a sustainable planet New India is committed to promote LiFE mission with focus on a lifestyle that is pro planet, that includes Yoga & Ayurveda, that uses renewable sources of energy including Green Hydrogen & EV, that promotes nutrition security over food security with focus on Millets, that empowers people to become self-reliant through digital public infrastructure, and that consumes planet's resources judiciously.

In our bilateral relations with Croatia, we had many firsts in 2023 and many more firsts await us in 2024. With the thought that "future couldn't be more promising and optimistic", we wish you all a blissful new year where peace, progress, & prosperity await us.

Compiled by
Embassy of India, Zagreb

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