


सत्यमेव जयते
Embassy of India, Zagreb

Newsletter

Significant milestone on the global AI stage

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President of France Shri Emmanuel Macron co-chaired the AI Action Summit in Paris on the 12th of February. The Summit saw participation from several world leaders & global tech experts. Addressing the Summit, the PM talked about India's perspectives & priorities on AI. The event marked a crucial step towards shaping the global AI agenda, with a strong emphasis on inclusivity, & harnessing AI for a sustainable future for all.



"Ekta Ka Mahakumbh – the Dawn of a New Era"

Hon'ble PM Narendra Modi, through his blog, "Ekta Ka Mahakumbh – the Dawn of a New Era", shares his thoughts on the recently concluded Mahakumbh at Prayagraj, a confluence of India's heritage, culture & tradition, that drew in over 660 million people across 45 days. Read the full article [here](#).



The Mahakumbh has successfully concluded in the holy city of Prayagraj. A grand Mahayajna of Unity has been completed. When the consciousness of a nation awakens, when it breaks free from the shackles of a centuries-old mindset of subjugation, it breathes freely in the fresh air of renewed energy. The result of this was witnessed at the Ekta Ka Mahakumbh (Mahakumbh of Unity) in Prayagraj since January 13. On January 22, 2024, during the Pran Pratishtha of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, I spoke about Devbhakti and Deshbhakti - devotion to the divine and to the nation. During the Mahakumbh in Prayagraj, Gods and Goddesses, saints, women, children, youth, senior citizens and people from all walks of life came together. We witnessed the awakened consciousness of the nation. This was Ekta Ka Mahakumbh, where the sentiments of 140 crore Indians converged at the same place, at the same time, for this sacred occasion. In this holy region of Prayagraj is Shringverpur, a sacred land of unity, harmony and love, where Prabhu Shri Ram and Nishadraj met. Their meeting symbolized the confluence of devotion and goodwill. Even today, Prayagraj inspires us with the same spirit. For 45 days, I witnessed crores of people from every corner of the country making their way to the Sangam. The wave of emotions at the confluence kept rising. Every devotee came with one purpose – taking a dip in the Sangam. The holy confluence of Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati filled every pilgrim with enthusiasm, energy, and confidence.



This Mahakumbh in Prayagraj is a subject of study for modern management professionals, planning, and policy experts. Nowhere in the world is there any parallel or example of this scale. The world watched in wonder how crores of people gathered at Prayagraj at the banks of the confluence of rivers. These people had no formal invitations, no prior communication on when to go. Yet crores of people left for the Mahakumbh of their own accord and felt the bliss of taking a dip in the sacred waters. I cannot forget those faces radiating immense joy and satisfaction after the holy dip. Women, elders, our Divyang brothers and sisters – everyone found a way to reach the Sangam. It was particularly heartening for me to see the overwhelming participation of India's youth. The presence of the younger generation at the Mahakumbh sends a profound message that the youth of India will be the torchbearers of our glorious culture and heritage. They understand their responsibility towards preserving it and are committed to carrying it forward. The number of people who arrived in Prayagraj for this Mahakumbh has undoubtedly created new records. But beyond those physically present, crores of people who could not reach Prayagraj were also deeply connected emotionally to the occasion. The sacred water brought back by pilgrims became a source of spiritual bliss for millions. Many of those returning from the Mahakumbh were received with respect in their villages, honoured by society.

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Indian Economy on the Transformational Paths

India's economic momentum strengthens despite global risks

India's economic activity is showing sustained momentum, with key growth indicators suggesting a sequential pickup in the second half of fiscal year 2024-25, according to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) February 2025 Bulletin. The report highlights improvements in vehicle sales, air traffic, steel consumption, and GST e-way bills, pointing to continued economic expansion. The RBI noted that rural demand is expected to strengthen further, supported by a resilient agricultural sector. Urban demand is also poised for recovery, driven by easing inflation and an increase in disposable incomes following significant income tax relief announced in the Union Budget for 2025-26. The RBI remains optimistic about India's medium-term growth trajectory. The Union Budget's strategy to drive four key engines of growth—agriculture, MSMEs, investment, and exports—is expected to support economic expansion while maintaining fiscal discipline.



PM Modi urges global CEOs to invest in India; highlights AI, sustainability

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, speaking at the India-France CEO Forum in Paris, underscored India's sweeping economic reforms and investment opportunities across multiple sectors, from defence and aerospace to AI and advanced manufacturing. He positioned India as the ideal destination for global businesses, citing large-scale initiatives such as the National Manufacturing Mission, the recent rationalisation of over 40,000 compliances, and regulatory reforms to foster a trust-based economic environment. Modi pointed to India's aviation sector as a prime example of the country's economic momentum, referencing recent bulk aircraft orders by Indian airlines and plans to open 120 new airports. He invited global businesses to explore opportunities in key industries, including fintech, pharma, infrastructure, textiles, agriculture, and space technology, as India progresses towards its goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047.



India's semiconductor market set to reach \$103.4 billion by 2030

India's semiconductor market is poised for significant expansion, with projections indicating it will reach US\$103.4 billion in the next five years, powering its US\$400+ billion electronics industry. According to the Indian Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA) report, India Semiconductor Market Report 2030, the sector was valued at US\$52 billion in 2024-25 and is expected to grow at a CAGR of 13% through 2030. Mobile handsets, IT, and industrial applications continue to be the primary drivers of growth, contributing nearly 70% of the sector's revenue. Additionally, automotive and industrial electronics present new value-addition opportunities, positioning India as a key player in the global semiconductor landscape.



India's tourism sector gets a boost with Budget measures

The Union Budget 2025-26 has outlined several measures to boost India's tourism sector, focusing on employment-led growth and infrastructure development. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced plans to develop 50 top tourist destinations in partnership with states. State governments will provide land for key infrastructure projects, including hotels, to enhance tourism offerings. The Budget also promotes medical tourism through the 'Heal in India' initiative, supported by private sector collaboration, capacity building, and streamlined visa regulations. Sitharaman allocated INR 20,000 crore for private sector-driven research, innovation, and development, with the possibility of establishing a Deep Tech Fund of Funds to catalyse start-ups.



POVIJESNE VEZE DUBROVNIKA I INDIJE

Kako se u Goi slavi sveti Vlaho

U razgovorima s indijskim istraživačima tijekom boravka u Goi mnogi su mi rekli da je jedna od stvari koju cijene vezano uz prisutnost Raguzina ta što ih se ne veže za ratovanje i kolonijalizam

Piše Dragan Nikolić

Kada se i ovog veljače u Dubrovniku bude obilježavao dan njegova sveca i zaštitnika, tisućama kilometara daleko činit će to i mala zajednica katolika na obalama indijske Goe. Procesija s kipom svetoga Blaža spustit će se do križa u podnožju crkve São Brás u selu Gandaulimu. U rukama će kentrati nositi i kip svetog Vlaha, rad dubrovačkog kipara Iva Štešića, kojega je za posjeta 2008. donijela službena hrvatska delegacija. Tijekom godine, pričali su mi razdragano domaćini za mog posjeta Gandaulimu, čuvaju ga pod ključem i iznose van isključivo na dan kada lokalno stanovništvo slavi svetkovinu svetog Blaža.

Protostavlja se da su stari Dubrovčani, koji su imali treću najjaču i najmnogobrojniju mornaricu na svijetu, do zapadne obale Indije dopli u 16. stoljeću. Nedugo zatim, u čast svome svecu, ondje su podigli crkvu. Goanska crkva São Brás, u prijevodu Sveti Blaž ili Sveti Vlaho, kako joj u usmenoj predaji tepaju današnji Dubrovčani, izgrađena je kao kopija originalne dubrovačke crkve svetoga Vlaha. Starija je od postojeće u Gradu, koja datira iz 18. stoljeća (izvorna je preživjela dubrovački potres 1667, ali ne i pojar četiri desetljeća kasnije, kada je potpuno izgorjela). Crkva svetog Blaža u Gandaulimu zapnom crkvom postala je 1563, dvadeset godina nakon izgradnje. Stariji stanovnici koji potvrdili su mi u razgovoru kako su znali da je izgrađena 1541, ali ne i da su je izgradili Raguzini. Portugalci kolonizatori, koji su stanovništvu beanili kontakt s bilo kojom komunističkom zemljom, a bivša Jugoslavija spadala je za Salazarove vladavine u tu kategoriju, držali su ih u uvjerenju da su za to zaslužni upravo oni. O svemu su Goanci više saznali tek mnogo godina kasnije, kada je u Gandaulimu 1990. stiglo hrvatsko sahaesko izaslanstvo. U godišnjaku dijaeece prvi put je voza Dubrovnik i Goe spomenuta 2006. Dotad većina mještana nije znala za Dubrovnik i Hrvatsku, koja je postala poznata tek nakon polufinala Svjetskog nogometnog prvenstva 1998. u Francuskoj. Otada u Gandaulimu, u kojemu danas živi 200-tinjak duša, uglavnom starijih ljudi, na velikim najecanjima redovito navijaju za Vatrene.

Jest li nije Vlaho?

Znanost na priču o dubrovačkoj crkvi u Indiji, kao i na osnivanje trgovačkog zastupništva Dubrovačke Republike nedugo nakon iskrcavanja Raguzina na obalu Goe oko 1530, ne gleda jednoznačno. Sveat na zvonu u Gandaulimu u rukama ne drži Grad. Dubrovački sveti Vlaho, pak, nigdje se ne pojavljuje bez Grada u rukama. To je najbitniji, ali ne i jedina razlika. Primjerice, indijski

inašica svetoga Vlaha mučen je i debeľakast lik, rumenih obraza, obučen u grimizni plašt. Za one stručnjake koji su osporavali da je crkva u Gandaulimu dubrovačka, poput pokojne Zdravke Matišić, doujenke indologije u nas, prizor s crkvenog zvonu bio je jedan od krunskih dokaza ojezne znanstvene teze. Bivši lokalni svećenici, koji su se u djetinjstvu ne jednom popeli na vrh zvonika crkve, tvrdili su mi u razgovoru da nema opipljivih dokaza kako su upravo Dubrovčani poklonili Goancima spornu zvonu. Na njemu je ispisana 1792. godina. Za mnoge dovoljno da padne u vodu priča o tome da je ono stiglo iz Dubrovnika. Nema, naime, pozdanih zapisa o tome jesu li tada Raguzini još uvijek bili prisutni u Goi. Njihovih imena ili prezimena ovdje odavno nema, čak ni

jedan referentni rad u Kraljevskom arhivu u Španjolskoj. Na jednome od svojih brojnih znanstvenih pohoda u Indiju, upravo je Zdravka Matišić otkrila zapise o vezama Dubrovnik i Gandaulimu. Zastupala je stav kako stari Dubrovčani nisu u Goi imali koloniju, ali jesu do nje dolazili i boravili u njoj.

Donacija za spas crkve

Kako je uopće priča o povijesnim vezama Dubrovnik i Indije dobila suvremeni nastavak i iskočila iz okvira ponekad hmetičnih znanstvenih rasprava? Skupina hrvatskih liječnika boravila je 2007. na stručnom skupu u Goi. Dubrovkinje Marija Radonjić i Marija Bagović Lučić odvažile su se na zaseban ranejutarnju avanturu i potragu za crkvom u kojoj su u Gradu godinama pre-povijedali samo oni naj-upućeniji. Kako bi stigle na uobičajenu misu u

procesiji, nosići svoj barjak. Goste iz Indije čekalo je u Dubrovniku i 36 tisuća američkih dolara. Do vrha puna kutija novca službeno im je predana u gradskome poglavarstvu. Toliki broj novčanica oni ipak nisu mogli fizički ponijeti sa sobom. Uplata prikupljene sume preko banke ili pošte također nije bila rješenje jer bi puni dolari morali biti pretvoreni u rupije, a onda opeoznani. Netko domisljat dosjetio se tada da se novac uplati na bankovni račun američkih isusovaca u Goi, koji ondje vode gimnaziju. I tako je nakon nepuna tri mjeseca stanja dolara u manjim svotama prikupljena pomoć u potpunosti pristigla u Gandaulim. Novca je bilo toliko da su u obnovu crkve Goanci mogli izgraditi i župni dvor. Svećenik je dotad, naime,



Sveat na zvonu crkve u Gandaulimu



Goanska crkva São Brás, u prijevodu Sveti Blaž



Noćeljina misa u crkvi São Brás

svaki dan pješalio 14 kilometara, po 7 u jednom smjeru, kako bi služio svetu misu. Obnovljeno je i grublje uz crkvu. Otada si stanovnici Gandaulima i Dubrovčani svake godine šalju brajave i moždašno čestitaju dan svetog Vlaha.

Preteče globalizacije

U razgovorima s indijskim istraživačima tijekom boravka u Goi mnogi su mi rekli da je jedna od stvari koju cijene vezano uz prisutnost Raguzina ta što ih se ne veže za ratovanje i kolonijalizam. I da ova fascinirana priča govori o povijesti globalizacije, koja se u tom dijelu svijeta događala tisućama godina prije suvremene inašice tog fenomena. Gotovo je sigurno da su stari Dubrovčani bili na obalama Goe prije dolaska Portugalaca 1510. Pokazujući arhiv-

ske fotografije kao jedan od dokaza, goanski znanstvenici navodili su i prije tri desetljeća srušen luk na ulazu u Gandaulim, koji su navodno također izgradili stari Dubrovčani, po snoru na onaj na ulazu u staru dubrovačku luku. Jedno je sigurno. Kamo god plovili, stari Dubrovčani uvijek su sa sobom nosili ili sliku ili kip svetoga Vlaha.

Bili su mali, ali moćni. Pomoćni i trgovci. Stiješeni između Mletaka i Osmanlija, a novisni. Bogati i uspješni, mudri i prepedeni. Da nisu bili takvi, nikada ne bi doprili do dalekih obala Goe i pronijeli slav u svoja sveca, te prije više od pola tisućljeća bili među vladarima svijeta. Najmanja indijska država, vrlo specifičnog i snažnog identiteta, s toliko udaljenom zemljom na Mediteranu digne dio svoje povijesti. U svijetu koji je naviknuto sve gledati kroz prizmu velikih sila i velikih nacionalizama, Dubrovnik i Hrvatska u svijesti južnih Indijaca izronili su sa svojom vlastitom pričom. Stara Goa, lik do koje je i crkva svetog Blaža u Gandaulimu, nalazi se pod UNESCO-ovom zaštitom, kao i Dubrovnik. Zašto hrvatska diplomacija ne bi uz pomoć svetog Vlaha napravila kulturnu vezu sa zemljom koja će u budućnosti dominirati novim svjetskim postocim?



Kip sv. Vlaha u crkvi São Brás

na nadgrobnim pločama. Nestali su u procesu nametanja portugalske kulture, koje je pratilo posvemašnje pokršćavanje domaćeg stanovništva. Dok sam šetao grubljem uz crkvu svetog Blaža u Gandaulimu, vidio sam mnogo imena Braz i Maria. Portugalci su od sredine 16. stoljeća u obližnjoj Staroj Goi provedili inkviziciju, s kojom su stali tek početkom 19. stoljeća.

Staru Gou, središte portugalske Indije, nekoć su nazivali Rimom istoka zbog velikog broja tamošnjih grandioznih crkava i samostana. Na prijelazu u 16. stoljeće bio je to grad dvostruko veći od suvremenog Pariza ili Londona. Povijesnik Gomes Catão piše o tadašnjoj naprednoj zajednici od 12 tisuća Raguzina, koji su u okolici Stare Goe izgradili kapelu, koja je potom postala crkva. Kada su Portugalci tijekom 17. stoljeća u nametanju s nizozemskim i engleskim trgovcima izgubili monopol na trgovinu začimima, očito se ugasio i trgovački interes za Gou od strane Dubrovačke Republike, koje pada u ekonomsku krizu prije velikog potresa 1667. Prema toj teoriji Raguzini su očito napustili i zapadnu indijsku obalu zbog pada trgovine. Neki stručnjaci tvrde, međutim, da je dubrovački emporij u Goi nestao nakon 200 godina postojanja zbog pojave kuge. Nažalost, hrvatska znanost o tome ne zna mnogo. Istraživači poput filje Mitkica i Asa Lučića, te kapetana Iva Štešića, koji je bio u Goi, kao i kapetana Antuna Nićerića, uglavnom su iscrpili izvore iz Državnoga arhiva u Dubrovniku. S druge strane, ne postoji ni-

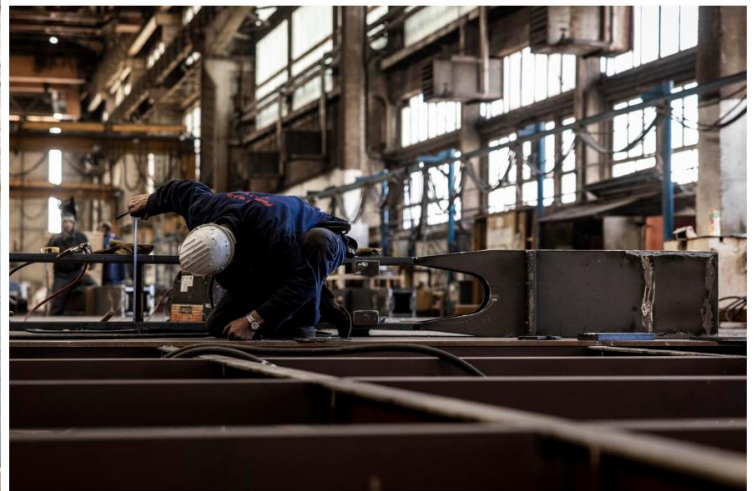
sari, pričala mi je uzbuđeno mnogo godina kasnije Marija Radonjić, zaputile su se iz hotela u društvu lokalnog taksista još za dobelog mraka. Dugo su u svitanje lutali tamošnjim područjem, vozač se izgubio. Pogled na sat govorio je kako je misa već pri kraju. A onda je poznata dubrovačka podjateljica krajikom oka ugledala bijeli kamen uz cestu i instinktivno zaustavila automobil. Obje dektorice počele su se uspinjati uzbrdicom, putem ugledale kamen s velikim križem i negdje na pola uspona ukazala se ispred njih crkva, s pročeljem identičnim onome na fotografiji iz dubrovačkog arhiva. Sreći nije bilo kraja. Crkva je tada bila u jako lošem stanju. Svećenik je misu morao služiti u sakristiji. Pod crkve u potpunosti je bio raskopan. Otar je bio pokriven, sve klupe iznesene vani pod jedno stamblo i pokriveno najlonom. Na crkvi nije bilo prozora.

Nakon povratka u hotel, pod dojmom velikoga otkrića rodila se ideja o donatorskoj večeri. Novac koji su hrvatski liječnici tada prikupili za obnovu zapuštena crkve svetog Blaža u Gandaulimu naposljetku je ipak vraćen u Dubrovnik. Nakon jedne mise u crkvi svetog Vlaha, čiji je rektor tada bio don Toma Lučić, dogovoreno je prikupljanje novca za obnovu i pozivanje delegacije iz Gandaulima na prvu sljedeću procesiju Stradunom u čast dubrovačkog sveca. To se i dogodilo, te su 2008. indijski katolici prvi put koračali u

On the feast of St. Blaise in Dubrovnik on the 3rd of February, which is one of the oldest and largest traditional celebrations in Croatia, an article was published in the magazine of "Matica Croatia" Vijenac, headlined "How the feast of St. Blaise is being celebrated in Goa" by the journalist Dragan Nikolić.

Read the full article at the following link: <https://www.matica.hr/.../kako-se-u-goi-slavi-sveti.../>

THEY LOVE LAND, CRICKET AND SHORELINE
More and more workers from India are in Croatia:
'They are hardworking, disciplined, and learn quickly...'



When the first Indian workers set foot in the Split shipyard in the fall of 2019, Croatia was facing a widespread labor shortage. Around 60 of them arrived at Brodosplit in four separate groups, one week apart, through one of the subcontractor companies.

First welders and shipbuilders, then grinders and pipe fitters. Trained in Indian training centers. By the end of that pre-pandemic year, the company had about 200 on its payroll...

"Their number gradually increased, as they demonstrated work ethic and expertise . The adjustment was not easy, but through systematic support from the company and a positive reception from the majority of the local population, the situation stabilized. Reactions from the environment were mostly positive , with occasional challenges due to cultural differences, but the workers themselves showed great patience and willingness to integrate. I remember that one of their first walks along the Riva aroused great interest among the people of Split. They stopped them themselves, asked them where they were from, asked to take pictures together, and wished them good luck in Split.

Due to the large number of Indian workers, it was difficult to organize their joint outings, so they split into smaller groups. The visit to Poljud and the surrounding shopping centres was a special experience, and they especially liked the spices they looked for in Split stores. They immediately showed their preference for spicy food. They prepared dishes to their taste and invited their local colleagues to a tasting. Although they are lovers of spicy food, the spicy coconut curry in the dish made them cry like never before in their lives, "smiles the CEO of Brodosplit, Tomislav Debeljak , recalled the beginnings of Brodosplit's Indian lesson.

Indians are the second most numerous foreign workers from Asia in Croatia

Six years later, the situation on the Croatian labor market is even more alarming. According to paid contributions for pension and health insurance, it is estimated that between 130,000 and 140,000 foreign workers are currently working in Croatia. More than 120,000 of them are from third countries. Indians are the second most numerous foreign workers from Asia in Croatia, behind Nepalese and ahead of Filipinos. In addition to shipbuilding, most of them work in construction and hospitality.

In smaller numbers, as experts in information technology or the pharmaceutical industry. The first Indian workforce arrived in Croatia in 2018 in construction companies in the Rijeka area, and then in the Zagreb area. Back then, platitudes about taking someone's job could still be heard. Today, they seem so empty. As well as the thesis that foreign labor from third countries has lowered the price of labor since the average salary in our country is growing month after month. Indians in Brodosplit, for example, are paid the same as their Croatian colleagues.

"The common argument that foreign workers lower the cost of labor is largely unfounded. On the contrary, they often fill jobs that have been vacant for a long time. In the long term, Croatia will have to invest additional efforts in education reform to ensure enough domestically qualified and quality labor. Shipbuilding has been facing the problem of its shortage for many years.

"One of the key reasons for this situation is precisely the education system that does not keep up with the needs of the labor market," Debeljak emphasizes, adding that labor imports have proven to be a short-term solution to the shortage of qualified workers in Croatia and that Brodosplit continues to invest additional efforts and financial resources to motivate the return of Croatian workers from abroad.

"I'm afraid that the thesis about the destruction of the price of labor is still present. As is the equalization of foreign workers with international protection seekers just because they are visibly foreigners. Foreign workers are a more expensive option for employers in Croatia. If you pay them without discrimination and provide them with adequate accommodation and food, they certainly cost you more than domestic workers.

Recruitment and relocation process

"However, we must not ignore the fact that in certain industries, due to the untidy work of certain recruitment agencies and the prevailing greed, local people have lost interest. Foreign workers who work in such systems are generally not satisfied with the situation themselves and are often very easily replaceable," warns Marko Pekčec, head of the team that provides services related to labor migration in Southeast Europe at one of the largest mediation and placement agencies on the market, Manpower Croatia.

The regional branch of the global brand has existed since 2008. Their team of specialized advisers connects employers and foreign workers, and guides them through the complex process of employment and relocation, including resolving administrative procedures and obtaining residence and work permits.

Officials in Zagreb and New Delhi are negotiating a Mobility and Migration Agreement to simplify the process of hiring skilled Indian workers in Croatia. Chained in an increasingly cold demographic winter and with UN projections that it will lose 400,000 working-age residents in the next two decades, Croatia will need such workers in the coming years. It already desperately needs postmen, waiters, drivers, construction and healthcare workers...

Read the positive article published in the Nacional News Magazin at the following [link](#).

Interaction with Indian students from the University of Dubrovnik, Croatia

Indian students from University of Dubrovnik, Croatia interacted with and were briefed by Mrs. Pallavi Kararha, Second Secretary (Com & Cons) and Mr. Naresh Kumar, Asst. Consular Officer under Student Exchange Programme on 24th February 2025.



**PRIME MINISTER'S
AWARDS FOR
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Participate at the PM Yoga Awards 2025 from 17/02/2025 - 31/03/2025.

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Ambassador Goel official visit to the City of Karlovac and Ozalj



Ambassador Arun Goel visited on the 4th of February the City of Ozalj and Ozalj Local History Museum (top left picture). Famous Croatian noble families such as Frankopan and Zrinski have lived in the Ozalj castle for centuries, and today it is recognizable for its historical importance and preserved appearance.

Ambassador Arun Goel visited Infosys in Karlovac (top right picture). Infosys introduced the Ambassador to their presence in Croatia in 2016, currently employing more than 100 mechanical engineers. Today, Infosys in Karlovac is engaged in the design of gas and steam turbines, aircraft engines, and power and process equipment for numerous

Yoga workshop for citizens during the "Month of Indian Movies and Culture" at Cinema Edison organized by the Croatian Yoga Federation on 15th February



Ambassador at the opening of the "Month of Indian Movies and Culture"



Ambassador Arun Goel participated jointly with the President of the City Council of Karlovac, Mr. Marin Svetić at the opening of the "Month of Indian Movies and Culture" on the 4th of February at Kino Edison Karlovac with the movie "Tanu Weds Manu". Ambassador Goel also highlighted India's culture as a vibrant blend of traditions, music, dance, and storytelling that has captivated audiences worldwide. Through cinema, India shares its emotions, struggles, and dreams with the world. Later in the month, had a chance to participate in a yoga workshop, and a lecture by Stipe Božić, and 3 more Indian movies.

Read the details at the following [link](#).



As part of the Indian Film and Culture Month, the Edison Cinema hosted the famous Croatian mountaineer Stipe Božić on the 17th of February. He gave a lecture, "The Himalayas - the Abode of the Gods," in which he spoke about his encounters with the Himalayas and the people who live there, along with photographs and video clips.

"Since I am a friend of the people of India and the Embassy of India, Zagreb, we agreed to give a lecture about the Himalayas and the sacred peaks of the world. We know that the Himalayan wall, which is 3,000 kilometres long, is a barrier from southern India to Tibet. It is the abode of gods and beliefs, perhaps the origin of all beliefs. What is most important for us who go there, is we learn a lot from these legends and myths, said mountaineer, writer, photographer, cinematographer, and director Stipe Božić.

Read more about the lecture at the following link: [LINK](#).

Ambassador Arun Goel was received at the Society of Brethren of the Croatian Dragon



Ambassador Arun Goel and Mrs. Pallavi Kararha, Second Secretary (Commercial & Consular), were received at the Society of Brethren of the Croatian Dragon premises by Prof. Dr. Mislav Grgić, Grand Master of the Society, Mr. Dražen Vikić-Topić and Mr. Zoran Korečić on the 17th February. The Society of Brethren of the Croatian Dragon is a cultural association founded in Zagreb nearly 120 years ago (in 1905) to preserve and restore Croatian cultural and historical heritage, reviving the memory of events from Croatia's past and notable Croatians.

Ambassador Arun Goel visit to the Technical Museum Nikola Tesla



Ambassador Arun Goel was received by the Director of the Technical Museum Nikola Tesla Mrs. Markita Franulić on the 7th February. The specialised museum of technology also has a showroom dedicated to the invention of Nikola Tesla, who 1893 met Swami Vivekananda in and found inspiration for energy concepts in Eastern philosophy. Swami Vivekananda mentioned how the scientific mind of Nikola Tesla learnt from Vedanta and how the connection between spirituality and science resonated with the potential to transform humanity.

Hindi Diwas & विश्व हिन्दी दिवस 2025



The Embassy of India, Zagreb held an event in connection with the celebration of the Hindi Diwas & विश्व हिन्दी दिवस 2025 in association with the Indology department and ICCR Hindi chair at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb on 13 February 2025. Among the participants were the Ambassador of India to Croatia, Mr Arun Goel and the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Prof. Domagoj Tončinić. In the introduction speech, Ambassador Goel recalled how the similarities between the two nations are evident regardless of geographical distance. During the function, the attendees saw the cultural performances of poetry, and dance music in Hindi from Indology students. and an essay competition was also organised among students. During the event, the performing students received tokens of appreciation from the Ambassador. There was a brief on the three books presented by Prof. Krešimir Krnić. Amongst them were the richly illustrated scientific monograph "India – History and Culture", written by Indology professor Ivan Andrijić, "Who was the Buddha?" by Prof. Višnja Grabovac and ICCR Chair at the University of Zagreb, Prof. Meenu Krishna's book "Sundarkand". After the official program, Indian Refreshments were provided for attendees.



“Certificate of Achievement” for the winners of the 5th Bharat Ko Janiye Quiz



An event to felicitate the winners in Croatia of the 5th Bharat Ko Janiye Quiz, which took place from 11th November to 11th December 2024, was organized on 13 February 2025. This quiz, first introduced in 2015 following an announcement by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, is an initiative by the Government of India to strengthen connections with the Indian Diaspora and engage individuals worldwide who are eager to learn about India. In this context, Ambassador Arun Goel distributed the “Certificate of Achievement” at the University of Zagreb to several winners, including Ms. Željka Ciganović, Ms. Sunčica Brnardić, Ms. Tanishka Kanapuram, Mr. Sandeep Kumar, Ms. Izabela Marić. Congratulations to all participants, and thank you for being part of this enriching experience!

Ambassador’s visit to Museums



Ambassador Arun Goel was received by the Headmaster of Naive Art Museum Mrs. Nataša Jovičić. The Croatian Museum of Naive Art was the first museum in the world to be devoted to this kind of art. It was founded in 1952, after the first generation of self-taught Croatian naïve artists had made their reputations and started to achieve important successes.



Ambassador Arun Goel visited the Croatian Museum of Natural History (Founded in 1846), a central national institution that collects, professionally and scientifically processes, and presents its holdings, which testify to the development of nature and man in the Croatian region. Ambassador Goel familiarized the representatives of the Museum with the latest Technological developments in India.

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Discover India: Upcoming Trade Fairs, Conferences & Business Events 2024-2025"

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Bharat Telecom 2025

Date and Venue: Hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi, 06-07 May 2025

Website: www.bharat-telecom.com

Telecom Equipment & Services Export Promotion Council is organising 'Bharat Telecom 2025' - an Exclusive International Business Expo, which will be held on May 6 - 7, 2025 at Hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi under Champion Sector Scheme of Department of Telecommunications, Government of India. The main objective of the event is to provide opportunities to the Bharat telecom stakeholders to meet prospective overseas buyers. There will be Conference sessions, Exhibition and B2B meetings during the event wherein leading Indian Telecom manufacturers & Telecom/IT service providers will exhibit their capabilities. TEPC is hosting this event since 2009 and this is the 22nd edition of the event.



World Food India 2025

Date and Venue: Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, 25-28 September 2025

Website: www.worldfoodindia.gov.in

Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) is organizing the 4th edition of World Food India 2025. The flagship event has been scheduled to take place from 25th to 28th September 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. With the objective of introducing the world to rich Indian food culture as well as promoting investments in the diverse food processing sector of the country, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries launched the first edition of World Food India in 2017.



Compiled by
Embassy of India, Zagreb

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