



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

The first Slovenian-Indian Day of Science and Innovations,

February 6, 2024 at the "Jožef Stefan" Institute

The Slovenian Science Foundation (SZF), on the initiative of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, the Embassy of India in Ljubljana, in coordination with Jozef Stefan Institute and high-tech companies, centres of excellence and research institutes is organizing the first Slovenian-Indian Day of Science and Innovation, taking place on February 6, 2024 at the "Jožef Stefan" Institute.

The implementation of the first Slovenia-India Science Day aims to share and promote the knowledge and understanding of the Slovenian and Indian approaches to Science, research and technical creativity, to present achievements in the area of scientific research and technological development achievements, and to draw attention to the scientific discoveries and innovations in creativity that are potentially interesting for upgrading into innovations.

There is no end to India's technological and scientific achievements this year. India will train its first ship for polar research in five years, by 2026 India will send three people on a 6,000-meter deep sub-ocean mission. It launched the Mars Mission in 2013 and shortly after successful landing on the moon in the end of last year, it successfully positioned its first satellite Aditya L1 to study the solar photosphere, chromosphere and corona last month with the beginning of 2024.

In order to bring Indian science closer to Slovenian and European audiences and for Slovenian experts to present themselves as future leaders in science, the 29th Slovenian Science Festival with international participation is followed by the first Slovenian-Indian Day of Science and Innovation. The emphasis will be on the presenting understanding between European and Indian science at the intersection of European and Indian culture.

In the introduction, the audience will be addressed by Prof. Dr. Irena Lazar, President of the scientific council of the Slovenian Science Foundation, the main organizer of the event, and Prof. Dr. Boštjan Zalar, Director of the "Jožef Stefan" Institute, host of the event. On behalf of India, Dr. Abhay Karandikar, State Secretary, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India, Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General of the Research Information System (RIS) (policy think-tank under the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India) and H. E. Namrata S. Kumar, Ambassador of India to Slovenia will share about India's vision and achievements in the area of Science and Technology and Research and Development. On behalf of the Slovenian government representatives the views will be presented by Mr. Marko Štucin, State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and Dr. Tomaž Boh, Director General at the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation.

Dr. Abhay Karandikar, State Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology will present India's vision for Science and Technology and developments in this field in India; Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi will present the importance of Science Diplomacy and cooperation between countries in this sector and H.E Namrata S Kumar, Ambassador will present the culture of Scientific thinking and works in India. In addition to these three experts from the Government of India, India will be represented by Scientists and experts from India and leading institutes and organisations in Europe.

State Secretary Štucin will present the support of science diplomacy to research institutions in their international connections and the already established good practices of connecting scientific institutions and high-tech companies in a comprehensive niche presentation of Slovenian excellence abroad. Slovenia and India are already recording innovative projects in the field of space technologies and earth observation. One of the most important is the "GangaSat" project for satellite observation of flood plains in the Ganges basin, which will be presented by Dr. Tomaž Rodič from Vesolje.si.

The program will include presentations of inventions prepared by Slovenian and Indian research Scholars from the "Jožef Stefan" Institute and the National Institute of Biology, as well as successful examples of innovations from the National Institute of Chemistry. In addition to researchers, representatives of research institutions and the state, companies and the interested public are also invited to participate in the event.

More information about the program is available on the website. <https://www.u-szf.si/>. Additional information: Andraž Ivšek, Slovenian Science Foundation, ivsek@windowslive.com.