

Ambassador's Engagements in Craiova Highlight Academic Excellence, Cultural Exchange, and Strengthening India-Romania Institutional Ties

The Ambassador of India to Romania, H.E. Dr. Manoj Mohapatra, undertook a series of engagements in Craiova last week that underscored the growing depth of India-Romania relations, driven by a shared commitment to education, cultural dialogue, and people-centric cooperation.

At the heart of the visit was India's participation in the International Shakespeare Festival, where more than 20 students from KIIT and KISS took part in the celebrations, adding a vibrant cultural dimension to the engagement. Addressing the festival, the Ambassador emphasized that literature and the arts possess a unique ability to transcend borders and connect societies at a deeper human level. He noted that cultural platforms such as the festival are not merely artistic events, but spaces where dialogue, empathy, and shared narratives can flourish. For the students, the experience offered not only exposure to Romanian culture, but also an opportunity to engage with universal themes that define the human condition.

During the visit, the University of Craiova recognised the contribution of Prof. Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder of KIIT and KISS, for his work toward the upliftment of indigenous communities in Odisha, India. In his meeting with Prof. Dr. Cezar Ionuț Spînu, Rector of the University of Craiova, and members of the academic community, the Ambassador highlighted that the recognition transcends individual achievement. It reflects a broader convergence of values between India and Romania, particularly the shared belief that education can serve as a powerful instrument for social transformation, inclusion, and global connection. The Ambassador noted that Prof. Samanta's work, which integrates education with social empowerment for marginalized communities, resonates strongly with global development priorities and offers a compelling model of inclusive growth. The honour conferred by the University of Craiova therefore symbolizes not only academic excellence, but also the emergence of a deeper intellectual and ethical partnership between the two countries.

The significance of the occasion was further reinforced during an official event at Craiova City Hall, where local and regional leaders gathered to celebrate the recognition. The presence of mayors, prefects, and senior public administration officials highlighted the increasing role of local institutions in shaping international partnerships. The Ambassador emphasized that educational and

cultural cooperation at the regional level can serve as a catalyst for broader bilateral engagement, linking communities, institutions, and future generations.

In his meetings with H.E. Ms. Lia Olguța Vasilescu, Mayor of Craiova, the Vice Mayors Corățu Cosmin & Păloiu Marian Daniel and the President of the Dolj County Council, Vasile Dorin-Cosmin. Discussions extended beyond formal cooperation to explore how universities, cities, and local administrations can work together to build ecosystems of learning, innovation, and cultural exchange. It was noted that such partnerships are essential in an increasingly interconnected world, where knowledge, mobility, and creativity are central to economic and social progress. The visit also included a meeting with the Prefect of Dolj, where discussions focused on strengthening institutional dialogue and ensuring that bilateral cooperation is supported by effective engagement at the local level. This reflects a broader approach in India's diplomacy, where partnerships are increasingly built not only at the national level, but also through regions, cities, and communities.

A particularly meaningful dimension of the visit was the Ambassador's interaction with Indian students participating in academic exchange programmes. Together with Prof. Samanta, he engaged with the students not only as learners, but also as active contributors to the strengthening of bilateral relations. He encouraged them to see themselves as bridges between India and Romania, carrying with them ideas, experiences, and cultural understanding that extend far beyond the classroom.

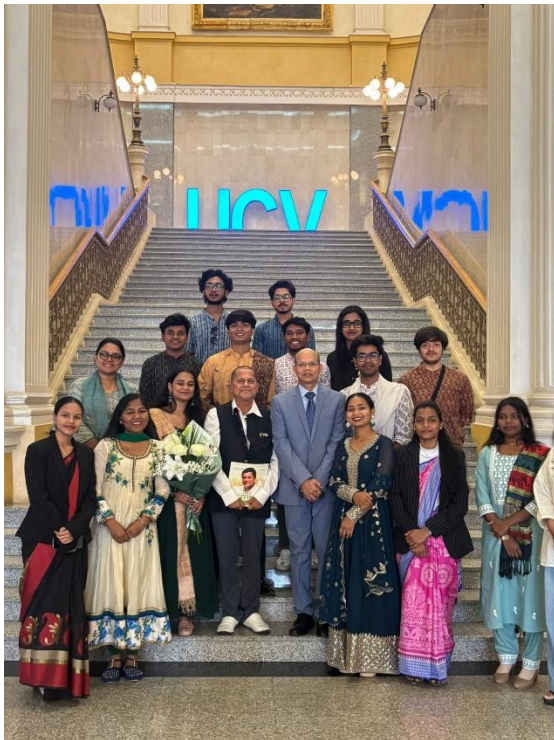
Overall, the visit to Craiova highlighted the evolving nature of India–Romania relations. It demonstrated that beyond economic and political ties, the partnership is increasingly anchored in education, culture, and people-to-people connections. These elements provide a durable foundation for long-term cooperation, shaping a relationship that is not only strategic, but also human-centric and future-oriented.

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Ambassador and Founder of KIIT & KISS meeting with the Rector of the University of Craiova.



Ambassador and Founder of KIIT & KISS meeting with students.



Founder of KIIT & KISS being honored by the Rector.



Event organized at Craiova City Hall to celebrate Prof. Samanta with Mayors, deputy mayors, prefects & public administration officials from multiple cities.



Ambassador met with Vice Mayors of Craiova, Corățu Cosmin & Păloiu Marian Daniel and President of Dolj County Council, Vasile Dorin-Cosmin.



Ambassador met with Prefect of Dolj, Călinoiu Eugen-Costel.



Ambassador and Prof. Samanta met with Mayor of Craiova, H.E. Ms. Lia Olguta Vasilescu.



Ambassador addressed participants at the Shakespeare Festival in Craiova.