

# AMRIT

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## REPUBLIC DAY ISSUE

  
**26**  
**JANUARY**  
REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA



अमृत

**Celebrating 70 Years of  
India - Hungary Friendship**

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## AMRIT

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## *From Editor-in-Chief's Desk*




**W**hen I started to write for this issue of Amrit, I realized this will have to be done keeping in mind at least two forthcoming events and celebrations: first, the 70th Republic Day of India on 26 January; and second, the ongoing 70th anniversary year of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Hungary.

Looking back at the year 2018 that has just gone by, there is a sense of satisfaction that India's ties with Hungary have been progressing well. Indian investment in Hungary has increased manifold to touch \$2 billion, and currently provides employment to over 10,000 Hungarians by Indian companies. Last year saw more Indian companies committing investment here, including EUR 60 million by the SRF Group in Jászfényszaru and EUR 71.5 million by Flex Films in Rétság to produce packaging materials. India now ranks among the top foreign investors in Hungary.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Eötvös Loránd University on the establishment of the ICCR Chair for Hindi language. At the renowned Ferenc Hopp Asiatic Museum, an exhibition titled *GODDESS | WOMAN - Devi Cults and Traditional Female Roles in India* was set up. At the Mucsarnok Kunsthalle museum an exhibition entitled *'Hidden Stories | the life reform movements and the arts'* was organized, where finest paintings & photos of Amrita Shergil, Tagore and Gandhi were showcased.

India's cultural presence in Hungary was reinforced also by the first Hungarian-Indian Film and Tourism Symposium organised in November 2018. The fourth International Day of Yoga and the third Ganga-Danube cultural festival showcasing Indian music, dances, yoga, henna painting, food, Bollywood movies, etc., drew



even larger crowds. The cultural festival was held in twenty cities in 2018, and for which 40 artists came from India. The fifth edition of the Indian Film Festival Hungary was organized in Budapest from October 4 to 10 at the iconic Pushkin Cinema. Curated by Captain Rahul Bali, the festival screened seven masterpieces of Indian films and was attended by a large number of acclaimed filmmakers, celebrities and media from across Europe. The celebrations marking 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi commenced on 2nd October 2018, with the front of the Royal Palace lighting up in the colours of the national flag: deep saffron, white and green. The Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly László Kövér inaugurated Gandhiji's anniversary celebrations. From Hungary, Jennifer Maga and from Bosnia & Herzegovina Selma Muhedinovic-Silajdzic rendered the spiritual song "Vaishnav Jan To Tene Kahiye" in their soulful voices.

India and Hungary are both ancient cultures with a history of spiritual and cultural interaction. Over time, these historical links have evolved into a beautiful and mutually beneficial partnership. We share the ideals of democracy and a strong desire to diversify our relationship, and there is so much that we can do together. A strong India and a strong Hungary will together contribute to a better world.

As we start the year 2019, there are a number of interactions being planned in diverse fields which will add both colour and content to the 70th anniversary celebrations of India-Hungary diplomatic ties.

On this note, I have great pleasure in conveying to all the readers of Amrit my warm felicitations and greetings for a very happy and prosperous 2019.

*Kumar Tubin*  
*Ambassador*  
*Embassy of India, Hungary*

# PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS



Ambassador was received by the Guard of Honour upon arrival at the Sándor Palace



Ambassador Kumar Tuhin presenting his Letter of Credence to H.E. President Mr. Janos Ader



**LEFT:** Ambassador with President Áder at the Mária Terézia Hall of the Sándor Palace. **RIGHT:** Ambassador Kumar Tuhin and Mr. T.P.S. Rawat, Second Secretary in meeting with Mr. János Áder, President of the Republic of Hungary



**LEFT:** Ambassador at the wreath-laying ceremony at Heroes' Square. **RIGHT:** Ambassador in conversation with Dr. Sándor Sipos, Director General and Ms. Ágnes Chwist, Protocol officer at the reception hosted at India House

**O**n 17 December, H.E. Ambassador Kumar Tuhin presented his credentials to H.E. Mr. János Áder, Hon'ble President of the Republic of Hungary. He was accompanied by the officers of the Embassy, Mr. T.P.S. Rawat, Second Secretary, Mr. Venkataraman, HOC and Ms. Tanuja Shankar, Director of the Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre. Following the ceremony at the Sándor Palace, the delegation proceeded to Heroes' Square for the wreath-laying ceremony at the historical monument.



**Ambassador with the guests and the staff of the Embassy and Amrit Sher-Gil Cultural Centre**

Returning to India House, Ambassador hosted a small celebration to mark the auspicious occasion. The event was attended by Dr. Sándor

Sipos, DG of the Department of Fastest Growing Economies, Mr. Máté Kiss, India desk officer and Ms. Ágnes Chwist, protocol officer from the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as all members of the staff of the Embassy and the Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre. ■

## Meeting with Cecília Szilas

**O**n 12th December, Ambassador Kumar Tuhin paid a courtesy call on Ms. Cecília Szilas, Deputy State Secretary for Development of Eastern Relations in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade. The introductory meeting proved to be immensely fruitful, in addition to presenting his agenda, Ambassador also discussed with Deputy State Secretary Szilas several bilateral issues and explored the expansion of cooperation between the two countries.

Ambassador Kumar Tuhin called on Ms. Cecília Szilas, Deputy State Secretary for Development of Eastern Relations, MFAT



## Visit to Hopp Ferenc Museum of Asiatic Arts



**LEFT:** Dr. Györgyi Fajcsák, director and Mr. Róbert Válóczy, curator taking Ambassador on a guided tour at the exhibition 'Devi Cults and Traditional Female Roles in India'. **RIGHT:** Ambassador Kumar Tuhin in a meeting with Dr. Györgyi Fajcsák, director of Hopp Ferenc Museum of Asiatic Arts

**A**mbassador visited Hopp Ferenc Museum of Asiatic Arts, where he took a guided tour of the exhibition titled 'Devi Cults and Traditional Female Roles in India'. He also had a very fruitful meeting with Dr. Györgyi

Fajcsák, director of the museum and Mr. Róbert Válóczy, curator exploring possible avenues of future collaboration. The exhibition that closes on the first week of January showcases magnificent Devi Representations by artist, Abhishek Singh. ■

## New Year's reception by President Mr. János Áder

**O**n 7 January H.E. Mr. János Áder, President of Hungary along with his wife, Madam Anita Herczegh received the New Year's greetings of the diplomatic corps at the Palace of Arts. The event was

followed by a reception and a cultural programme. Ambassador Kumar Tuhin was among the guests who had the opportunity to convey in person to the presidential couple all his best wishes for a happy and prosperous new year. ■

# 70<sup>th</sup> Republic Day of India

**O**n 26<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2019, the Mission celebrated, the 70<sup>th</sup> Republic Day of India by organising the flag hoisting ceremony in the morning at the Embassy of India premises and a grand reception at Marriott Hotel, Budapest in the evening.

The morning started with Ambassador Kumar Tuhin unfurling the national flag followed by singing of the National Anthem, and at the Auditorium Ambassador read out the President's message. Refreshments were served after the event to more than 120 members of the Indian community and friends of India who attended the occasion.

The celebrations continued in the evening with a grand Reception hosted at Hotel Marriott attended by members of the Diplomatic Corps residing in Budapest, prominent representatives of the Hungarian political, business and cultural scene of both Hungary and India and notable figures of the academic field of Indian studies.

Ambassador Kumar Tuhin delivered his festive greetings to the audience and thanked all the gathered guests for attending and celebrating this special occasion together. He also called Republic Day the symbol of true spirit for the independent India and a great pride for the nation.



The official programme was followed by cultural performances presented by Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre which started with a fusion orchestra based on the national song of India, 'Vande Mataram' written by renowned Indian writer Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and performed by Pd Rajesh Gangani, Hungarian musicians Melinda Ertl, Szabi Toth and Boros Gerzson David. This was followed by Kathak performance by Sonali Roy and her group on a soulful Sufi song sung by Abida Parveen. The evening's programme was concluded by a musical extravaganza presented by well known band of Hungary Meshinda band with the lead singer Guessous Majda Maria where the group rendered enchanting fusion of Hindi and Hungarian patriotic songs. ■

## Ambassador's Visit To Pecs



Ambassador with Mayor Zsolt Pava



Ambassador at Gandhi School



Ambassador Kumar Tuhin visited Pecs city between 12-14 Jan 2019, and paid an official visit to the Mayor's office and had a very fruitful discussion on future economic, political and cultural activities with Mayor Zsolt Pava. Besides visiting key landmarks of the city, Ambassador visited Gandhi School and met the Principal and faculty of the school. Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre organised a Yoga workshop under Director ASCC Tanuja Shankar, and Yoga Teacher Ankita Sood which saw a good number of students participating. ■



**LEFT:** Yoga workshop at Gandhi School, Pecs. **RIGHT:** Visit to factory of Zsolnay Ceramics, Pecs



# Foreword

By Márton Schőberl

Dear Reader,

On the occasion of the 70th Republic Day of India, I have the pleasure to extend my warm greetings and felicitations to Indian citizens all over the world – especially to the Indian community living in Hungary. Last year our countries celebrated another 70-year jubilee: the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Hungary and India have a long history of co-operation dating back to the late 19th and early 20th century, when a score of Hungarian orientalists visited India and Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore visited Hungary in return.

In India, there is the tomb of Alexander Csoma de Kőrös, whilst in Hungary there are two statues, that of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore in Balatonfüred and that of Mahatma Gandhi in Pécs, reminding us of the excellent and multi-faceted cultural relations between India and Hungary. The memorial site of Mahatma Gandhi will bear even more significance in 2019, as this year we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of the prophet of non-violence.

The encounters of our cultures preceded the establishment of economic, political or diplomatic relations. The pull of the mystic East brought many outstanding Hungarians to the land of the Ganges in the course of the past centuries. The names of the great orientalists, Alexander Csoma de Kőrös, Ervin Baktay, Ármin Vámbéry and Sir Aurel Stein, are inscribed in our shared memory for ever. They immersed in the unusually rich culture and history, studied the diverse languages, devoted their life to explore the Orient and made a valuable contribution to introducing the subcontinent to the European public.

The influence of India can also be identified in Hungarian art, especially in applied arts, architectural arts and literature. An outstanding example is the oeuvre of Amrita Sher-Gil, who created the unique synthesis of Hungarian, European and Indian traditions in her artwork. The painters Elisabeth

Brunner and Elisabeth Sass Brunner were not only inspired by the spirit of India, but had found their second home in the country.

Today Hungary views India as an indispensable element of the regional as well as the global political and security architecture, a major driver of growth in the current world economy. Without doubt, we currently live the most flourishing period of our bilateral history: our bilateral trade is steadily growing, Indian companies have discovered the Hungarian market as a sound investment destination, our cultural, educational ties and people-to-people contacts are thriving.

Hungary and India have a long history of producing films reaching audiences all over the world. Therefore commemorating the 70th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between India and Hungary, the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade organized the first Indian-Hungarian Film and Tourism Symposium on 13th of November 2018, bringing together distinguished representatives of the filmmaking and travel industries of the two countries. The Symposium, aimed at showing the potentials of cooperation, succeeded in deepening relations in these particular fields.

To continue the successful story of cultural diplomacy between the two countries, we need to preserve and develop our wide-ranging relationship. To this end, Hungary is looking forward to inaugurating the new building of its Information and Cultural Centre, suitable for all the needs of the 21st century, in Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, on the premises the Embassy. ■



—The author is Deputy State Secretary  
for Cultural Diplomacy

# SEVENTY AND STILL YOUNG

Dr. Imre Lázár PhD

India and Hungary established diplomatic relations 70 years ago, in November 18, 1948, formally laying down the firm foundations of their friendly ties. Seventy years in the contacts of two countries seem to be a long time if we measure it with a human lifespan. However, it is just a glimpse if we compare it with the several thousand years old history of India and the millennium-old Hungarian statehood. The road we trod on 70 years ago had been paved by several explorers, travellers, scholars and artists like Alexander Csoma de Kőrös, Sir Aurél Stein, Ervin Baktay, Amrita Sher-Gil, Rabindranath Tagore, Elizabeth Sass Brunner and Elizabeth Brunner – just to mention a few. They were drawn by an irresistible magnet to get acquainted with the unknown and learn from each other.

We cannot appreciate highly enough the achievements of these pioneers if we take into consideration that covering such a great distance those times was as if someone wanted to travel to the Moon! And how different India and Hungary was, and still is today! They belong to different continents, different cultures and they are considerably different in size and in terms of population. However, in spite of these vast differences, Indians and Hungarians have always been showing great respect towards each other, they have been enchanted by each other's culture, philosophy, art and intellect. This spontaneous sympathy, affection and deep interest towards each other are very important factors of our relations. It's a great mystery difficult to explain, but those involved in Indo-Hungarian contacts experience it day by day.

The establishment of diplomatic relations in 1948 was the beginning of the many-sided cooperation that has developed between the two countries. Hungarian Mission was opened in New Delhi in 1951, Indian mission was opened in Budapest in 1956. Relations were raised to ambassadorial level in 1959. Institutionalization of political

relations logically led to signing of a series of agreements. Among the first ones was the Cultural Agreement signed in 1962. This was followed by several others like agreements on air transport, on scientific-technological contacts, agreement between the Science Academies, avoidance of double taxation, defence cooperation, health and medicine, agriculture, social security and several further trade and investment agreements.

Contacts have been strengthened by mutual visits of the dignitaries and experts to each other over the years. These visits have taken place at various levels including the highest when the heads of the two countries exchanged state visits. During the 70 years of diplomatic relations there were four presidential and two prime ministerial visits from India to Hungary and three Hungarian Presidents and six Prime Ministers paid visit to India. Besides these, parliamentary contacts and visits of ministers and of experts have become also regular. It is interesting to mention that President Zakir Hussain on 9 July, 1968 initiated the tradition of Indian politicians planting a tree near Rabindranath Tagore's memorial at Balatonfüred, on the shore of Lake Balaton. His example was followed by many more Indian VIP-s, so there is today a pleasant Indian grove behind the Tagore-bust.

Indo-Hungarian relations developed rapidly and stood the test of history. Although before 1989 they were partly on account of warm Indo-Soviet relations, they have always had their own logic based on professional interests. In spite of the dramatic changes at the end of the 80s – in the case of India gradual, in the case of Hungary radical reorientation in the foreign policy – they did not affect the good and cordial political relations of the two countries. Even the economic relations that were very intensive until the 80s and dramatically fell back in the 90s started to recover after 2005. But the opportunities in this field might still not be used to the full.

Cultural contacts have achieved considerable growth both regarding their size and in their importance all over the world, and especially in Indo-Hungarian relations, they have been playing more important role than ever before during the history. Communication and information revolution enabled people to easily transcend distances and access to a vast amount of information that was not available before. These changes have made communication between distant cultures like India and Hungary also easier and have brought their people closer to each other.

The author of this article has had the privilege to observe closely and work actively for the development of Indo-Hungarian relations for several decades. As government official I was involved in one of the most successful fields of relations, in cultural diplomacy. Fortunately this field of cooperation had an organic, continuous development and was not the least influenced by change of priorities in any of the two countries. At the beginning of my career I could see the opening of the Hungarian Information and Cultural Centre in New Delhi in 1978, the first Hungarian cultural institute in Asia and I could witness its growing activity and popularity. Working at the Ministry responsible for culture and education I sat at the negotiating tables discussing several cultural and educational exchange programmes, and was member of high level delegations to India and also participated in receiving Indian delegations in Hungary. I was posted twice as Cultural Counsellor and Director of HICC to India and

spent altogether 11 years in that wonderful country. Without exaggeration I can say that these were the most beautiful years of my career. I also have had the honour to work for popularizing Indian culture in Hungary and witness the opening of Indian Cultural Centre in Budapest and I was honoured to unveil its name-plate when it took up the name of Amrita Sher-Gil in 2014.

Diplomatic contacts between the India and Hungary is a success story, we can cite only very few similar examples from the international scene. Looking back at the history of Indo-Hungarian diplomatic ties, we are convinced that it is possible to maintain mutually beneficial relations of amity, goodwill and cooperation between countries geographically, historically and culturally so different.

With their 70 years Indo-Hungarian diplomatic relations are still fresh and young and there is a bright future in front of them. We have to consider the result we have achieved so far as a valuable tradition to be preserved and we have to work diligently for its further development. ■

—The author is former  
Director of Hungarian  
Information and Cultural  
Centre, New Delhi



## FRIENDSHIP BEYOND BORDERS

11 weeks...80 days...1950 hours..1,15,200 minutes.... 28,08,000 seconds..with this time spent in Budapest..I am still seeped in the seamless vibe of the place..which is not just like any other city full of busy populace or busier life passing me by. It is a city breathing in its past and present, jostling with modernity and heritage peeping through the lanes, the spicy fragrance of mulled wine, and the twinkling lights still adorning the markets. Budapest has indeed

embraced me in a giant bear hug.

Although the snow has on and off enveloped the city, the warmth of the people has done enough to make me feel cosy and warm. The innate affection for India is that people of Hungary have is endearing and warming.

The onset of Republic Day of India marks the third month

of my arrival here, and reminds me that as we step into the 70<sup>th</sup> Republic Day of India, we also celebrate 70 years of India Hungary Diplomatic relations forged in 1948. The role of India in the 1956 Uprising in the country is remembered significantly, for saving life of Dr. Arpad Goncz who subsequently served as President of Hungary from 1990 to 2000 by India's intervention with the then Soviet Union. The relationship was cemented further in 2008 with the visit of then prime minister Gyurcsany. But the ties of culture & languages run deeper between India and Hungary. From the Hungarian side, names like Csoma De Korosi, Aurel Stein, Elizabeth Sass Bruner play indelibly a very notable role in connecting Hungary with India and from the INDIAN side Rabindranath Tagore, Amrita Sher-Gil have significant contributions the names like mantra on the lips of most discerning Hungarians. Generations of great Indologists, writers and translators have strengthened the foundation of the Cultural umbilical cord by touching topics ranging from history, philosophy, literature, polity to mythology and religions.

In the last few decades, India & Hungary have embraced each other wholeheartedly and connected through music, art, festivals, languages, education, business, tourism, films and above all matrimony. It is most heartening to see how love and marriages between Indians and Hungarians have joined the two countries as no other thread can. One can see the most adorable examples of Indo Hungarian marriages and familial bondings that are the unsung stories of success ties between India and Hungary.

As I continue my journey to know, feel and experience the essence of this country, with a hope to see more bridges of happiness and glory built between the two countries, the only words that spill out of my mouth are...

*You and I have floated here  
on the stream that brings from the fount.  
At the heart of time, love of one for another.  
We have played alongside millions of lovers,  
shared in the same shy sweetness of meeting,  
the same distressful tears of farewell -  
old love but in shapes that renew and renew forever.*

*Today it is heaped at your feet,  
it has found its end in you  
the love of all man's days both past and forever:  
Universal joy, universal sorrow,  
universal life.  
The memories of all loves  
merging with this one love of ours -  
and the songs of every poet past and  
forever.*

—Rabindranath Tagore

—Tanuja Shankar  
Director, Amrita Sher-Gil  
Cultural Centre



## TESTIMONIALS BY EMINENT PERSONS



**Mr Raman Sundaram**

**General Secretary (President Elect), Bharatiyasamaj of Hungary, The Executive Committee**

I have been in Hungary since 1989. Initially there were only students, and as the political system changed slowly businessmen started to arrive increasing the Indian community presence, more Indian restaurants began to operate in Budapest. Then over the past decade there had been a steady flow of IT professionals and of late a much bigger influx of Indian students and direct recruits from India to Hungary. Similarly more and more Hungarians reaching India is increasing but mostly as tourists. I hope the human exchange will be mutual that equal number of Hungarians go to India, take up professional work and take the relationship to a new level. Hungarians can be true partners to Indians and still be able to give a lot to Indian development if properly tapped.



**Dr Eva Aradi**

**Retd Professor, University of Pecs, Writer, Translator**

On 12-th January 1975 in Nagpur the opening day of the First International Hindi Conference was held. At that time I was living with my family in Bombay (Mumbai) and studied Hindi language and literature at Bharatiya Vidhya Bhavan. My professor Suresh Upadhyaya suggested to go and take part in it, because it would be useful for my studies. At that time I was only a student. What can I say before two thousand Hindi speaking people? While I was going towards the stage I was praying to God. But reaching the stage, thanks to God, I could deliver a short Hindi speech. Because of the Conference I was very much impressed by Hindi language and literature. Returning to Hungary I started to translate ten short stories from Premchand and later his novel "Nirmala". I translated the works of other Hindi writers and poets. All these translations were published in Hungarian language, by a Publishing House and in different literary periodicals.

**Dr. Mária Négyesi**

**Professor, Department of Indian Studies, Eötvös Loránd University  
Indologist, Professor of Sanskrit & Hindi**

Incredible India – the culture that attracts so many of us from Hungary and also challenges us to understand its unique, multifaceted essence. I firmly believe that only the deep knowledge of language gives the clue to an entirely different culture. This is why I am entirely devoted to teach Hindi language and literature. My students at the ELTE University, as well as the participants of the Hindi courses at the Indian Cultural Centre get comprehensive knowledge on India. They bridge the two cultures and become “the ambassadors” of Indian culture in Hungary.



**Agnes Kelecsényi PhD**

**Head of the Oriental Collection of the Library and Information Centre of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences**

After graduating with an MA in Indology at the Eötvös Loránd University I went on to study Hindi at the Central Hindi Directorate, Delhi. Since 1993 I have been working at the Oriental Collection and I'm responsible for the Indian collection as well as curator of the Sir Stein Aurel collections. I have organized conferences and exhibitions on Silk Road Studies and on Aurel Stein. In 2015 IGNSA hosted my exhibition on the India based archaeological-explorer.

**Tibor Bíró**

**Festival Director, Jameson CineFest, Miskolc International Film Festival**

Indian film art have introduced itself at the 11th Jameson CineFest Miskolc International Film Festival in 2014 as a special programm called Made in India. Film screenings, workshops and an exhibition of indian movie posters were organised. The Head of the Marwah Studio, Mr. Sandeep Marwah was part of the international jury and lectured a master course for young filmmakers.



**Dr. Magdolna Banyár**

**Rector Bhaktivedanta College, Budapest**

40 years ago, in 1978, Vishwaguru Mahamandaleshwar Sri Paramhans Swami Maheshwarananda introduced us the Yoga in Daily Life The System. We practice this world-wide known yoga path in our national center in Budapest, the Guru Ashram, and in multiple Ashrams in Hungary, in many cities, etc.

As a college professor teaching Vaishnavism and as a devotee of Krishna, for me the most elevating aspect of the Indian-Hungarian relations is that we can present the inexhaustible riches of the Indian scriptures and culture to the Hungarian people over 30 years. Even though yoga has been long practiced by many Hungarians, I am especially delighted that our College provides education on the various methods of yoga, supported by the Republic of India in many ways.



**Krishnanand Károly Kovács**

**President and Spec. Adviser of YIDL-Hungary**

The yoga teaching started 54 years ago in 1966 in the organization of our yoga group. There were yoga courses each day of the week. We also performed yoga excercises open air in the forest and in the mountains during our trips.



**Földiné Irtl Melinda****Msc in Yogic Sciences (S-VYASA), Buddhist Dharma (DGBC), Phd Candidate in Pedagogical History (ELTE)**

Many people can see the beauty of India, however some others can feel what India is! Hungarian people was always the latter. We have strong visible and invisible bound in our history, politics, arts and spirit. It is more than a century that our great orientalists (Aurel Stein, Ervin Baktay), painters (Elizabeth Sass Brunner, Amrita Sher-Gil) strengthened the brotherhoodship between our nations. In the field of spirituality we got many inspirations throughout Great Yogis like Swami Vivekananda, Selvarajan Jesudian in the early 1900th. Due to the political situations last three decades we got more opportunity and freedom to travel to India, to study and practice Yoga. As a result of it Yoga is well-known for all people by now and we are lucky to receive the ancient Vedic teachings directly by Great Yoga Traditions or Guru Parampara presented in Hungary such as Satyanada, Sivananda, Iyengar, Maheswarananda, Maharishi, Art of Living, Himalaya or Kriya Yoga tradition. Today Yoga became a real global, universal language. It serves as a bridge irrespected by religion, sex, caste, skin-colour etc. to support the global peace and harmony. I wish we all could find those aim within as well. Om Shanti Shanti Shanti.

**Ms Prerna Sujan****Professional Certified Coach (ICF, US), Trainer, Exe Coach  
Motivational Speaker, Hungary**

As a proud Indian citizen living in Hungary for the last 25 years, I am extremely grateful to Hungary for the opportunities it provided me to work here as a single parent raising 2 little girls. I have turned into a unique blend of East and West. I practice the Indian wisdom and teach my clients, mostly C suite professionals to live their lives from those values. They learn to manage their professional careers as well from a space of ease and well being which is our natural state. I have learnt patience, warmth and hospitality from my very dear Hungarian friends. I have immersed myself completely in the Hungarian system, soaking up the rich culture that it offers. To summarize, I feel an enriched and blessed Being thanks to my exposure to this beautiful country. Gratitude from every cell of my being.



# INDIA-HUNGARY TIES

IN RETROSPECT



**LEFT:** Hungarian PM Ferenc Munnich with Nehru.  
**RIGHT:** Fock Jenő: Head of ministerial council with Indira Gandhi in 1972



**LEFT:** Göncz Kinga, with Pranab Mukherjee, former President of India.  
**RIGHT:** Gyúrcsány Ferencz, the Hungarian PM with former President of India Smt Pratibha Devisingh Patil



# POLITICAL TIES



**LEFT:** Vice President Hamid Ansari with PM Viktor Orban of Hungary.  
**RIGHT:** Visit of Shri Suresh Prabhu



**LEFT:** Signing of Memorial Book in Tagore Memorial Hall by Hon'ble Shri Salman Khurshid.  
**RIGHT:** Tree planting by Hon'ble Shri Salman Khurshid and Mr István Boka, Mayor of Balatatonfured

# ECONOMIC TIES



**LEFT:** (R-L) Chairman Mr. Onkar Kanwar, PM Viktor Orban and Mr. Neeraj Kanwar, Vice-Chairman and Managing Director of Apollo Tyres. **RIGHT:** MOU between Election Commission of India and Central Election Commission of BiH



**LEFT:** Former Ambassador Rahul Chhabra and FM Peter Szijjarto at a press conference on investment by SMR Group. **RIGHT:** 5th India-Hungary JCEC Meeting in New Delhi

# CULTURAL TIES



**LEFT:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Ganga Danube Festival, Hungary  
**RIGHT:** Students of Gandhi School, Pecs performing on Ambedkar Jayanti at Sajokaza



**LEFT:** Signing of MoU between Elte University & ICCR  
**RIGHT:** Shovana Narayan's visit

# India's GDP expected to grow at 7.3% in 2018-19, will remain fastest growing economy: World Bank

India's GDP is expected to grow at 7.3 per cent in the fiscal year 2018-19, and 7.5 per cent in the following two years, the World Bank has forecast, attributing it to an upswing in consumption and investment. The bank said India will continue to be the fastest growing major economy in the world.

China's economic growth is projected to slow down to 6.2 each in 2019 and 2020 and 6 per cent in 2021, according to the January 2019 Global Economic Prospects report released by the World Bank on Tuesday.

In 2018, the Chinese economy is estimated to have grown by 6.5 per cent as against India's 7.3 per cent. In 2017, China with 6.9 per cent growth was marginally ahead of India's 6.7 per cent, mainly because the slowdown in the Indian economy due to demonetisation and implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), the report said.

"India's growth outlook is still robust. India is still the fastest growing major economy," World Bank Prospects Group Director Ayhan Kose told PTI in an interview. "With investment picking up and consumption remaining strong, we expect India to grow 7.3 per cent in the fiscal year 2018-2019, and average 7.5 per cent in 2019 and 2020. India registered quite a bit of pick up in doing business ranking. The growth momentum is there (in India)," Kose told PTI.

In India, the growth has accelerated, driven by an upswing in consumption, and investment growth has firmed as the effects of temporary factors wane, the World Bank said in its latest report. Domestic demand has strengthened as the benefits of structural reforms such as the Goods and Services Tax (GST) harmonisation and bank recapitalisation take effect.

"India's growth accelerated to an estimated 7.3 per cent in FY2018/19 (April to March) as economic activity continued to recover with strong domestic demand. While investment continued to strengthen amid the GST harmonisation and a rebound of credit growth, consumption remained the major contributor to growth," the World Bank said.

According to the report, India's GDP is forecast to grow by 7.3 per cent in FY2018/19 and 7.5 per cent thereafter, in line with June forecasts. Private consumption is projected to remain robust and investment growth is expected to continue as the benefits



of recent policy reforms begin to materialise and credit rebounds.

Strong domestic demand is envisioned to widen the current account deficit to 2.6 per cent of GDP next year. Inflation is projected to rise somewhat above the midpoint of the Reserve Bank of India's target range of 2 to 6 per cent, mainly owing to energy and food prices, the bank said.

It said in India the recent introduction of the GST and steps toward demonetisation are expected to encourage a shift from the informal to the formal sector.

"India's recent growth numbers suggest that the economy remains robust despite temporary setbacks (due to demonetisation and GST)," Kose said.

The World Bank's estimate suggest that India's potential growth rate is around seven per cent, and is expected to remain around seven per cent, he said in response to a question.

"The fact is that Indian economy is being able to deliver growth slightly above its potential is a very good sign," he added.

Refraining from commenting on the economic performance of the Modi Government that too in an election year, the World Bank official said growth performance of India as compared to other emerging markets has been quite impressive.

"India's growth performance has been quite impressive. Year after year it has delivered strong numbers around its potential growth," he said. ■

# India may overtake the US economy by 2030

**A new world economic order is in the making, with today's emerging markets, including India, at the heart of it**

India is likely to become the world's second-largest economy by 2030, next only to China and overtaking the US, according to Standard Chartered's long-term forecast released on Jan. 08. The UK-based multinational bank also predicts that based on nominal GDP using purchasing power parity exchange rates, China will overtake the US by 2020.

Current emerging markets will likely make up the majority of the 10 biggest economies by 2030. Standard Chartered has raised growth forecasts for China and India from its projections in 2013. "India will likely be the main mover, with its trend growth accelerating to 7.8% by the 2020s partly due to ongoing reforms, including the introduction of a national goods and services tax (GST) and the Indian Bankruptcy Code (IBC)," says the report.

Launched in 2017, the GST attempts to simplify India's cumbersome tax regime, while the IBC, rolled out in 2016, consolidates the country's bankruptcy and insolvency laws.

"Our long-term growth forecasts are underpinned by one key principle: Countries' share of world GDP should eventually converge with their share of the world's population, driven by the convergence of per-capita GDP between advanced and emerging economies," the report adds.

## Jobs, jobs, jobs

Ageing populations are likely to weigh on global growth, but India, home to the world's largest group of



young people, will remain unfazed, Standard Chartered notes. Half of the country's population is under the age of 25.

The bank expects "the rising aspirations of a young population to continue to support consumerism in India's economy." But a young demographic also creates a demand for massive employment. About 100 million new jobs must be created in the manufacturing and service sectors by 2030, according to the report. To achieve this, it says, the government needs to close a widening skills gap, raise the participation of women in the workforce, and ease labour laws.

"India needs to train circa 10 million people annually, but currently has the capacity to train just 4.5 million," the report says. It also calls for reforms to boost spending on infrastructure and reduce growing economic inequality in the country. ■

## WOMEN IN INDIA

# In a first, a lady officer lead an Army contingent at the 71<sup>st</sup> Army Day parade

For the first time in Indian Army's history, a lady officer lead a contingent on the Army Day parade which

is held every year on January 15. This is separate from the all-women marching contingent in the Republic Day

parade in 2015, which was led by a woman officer, Captain Divya Ajith. Lieutenant Bhavana Kasturi will lead the Indian Army's Service Corps (ASC) contingent, comprising of 144 male personnel, on the 71st Army Day parade.

LtKasturi said, "This is the first time ever a lady officer is leading a contingent. Earlier, never a lady officer led a jawanscontingent." She also lauded the Army for this opportunity and said, "This shows the kind of acceptance, the change and the evolutions which is happening in the entire organization. This shows acceptance for woman officers also."

The ASC, which handles the logistic support function of the Army, is participating after a gap of 23 years in the parade.

**2019 - A year of firsts**

1 Apart from LtKasturi, Captain Shikha Surabhi, a female officer, will be leading the Army's DaredevilsMotorcycle Display team for the first time, comprising of 33 men riding nine bikes in a pyramid formation. The Daredevils is part of the Army's Corps of Signals - a combat support arm that holds 24 world records, including the Guinness World Record.

Captain Shikha will be seen saluting the guests while riding a bike and the entire Daredevilscontingent will be led by Major Manpreet Singh.

The team will also participate in the Republic Day parade on January 26, 2019, besides the Army Day parade.

The contingent will see two male officers as contingentcommanders. Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Bipin Rawat will take salute on this occasion.

2. This year, the Army Day parade along with the Republic Day parade will also see, for the first time, display of M777 A2 Ultra Light Howitzer and K9 Vajra-Tartillery.

The importance of these guns is that they are the first major artillery procurement since the Bofors were bought in the 1980s and will be deployed along India's frontiers with China and Pakistan.

M 777 Howitzer, which was inducted into the Indian Army in November 2018, can be used in both plain and hilly terrains.

**Significance of Army Day**

Army Day is celebrated on January 15 every year to commemorate the day when (then) Lieutenant General KM Cariappa took over General Sir Francis Butcher as

Commander-in-Chief of India in January 1949.

The day is celebrated to honour our country's soldiers who set the greatest example of selfless service and brotherhood, and above all, love for the country.

We are proud to say that the Indian Army is one of the most powerfulmilitaries of the world, competing with superpowers like US, Russia, and China.

**Facts about the Indian Army**

1. The Indian Army was formed in 1776 under the Government of the East India Company as a military department at Kolkata.
2. The motto of the Indian Army is 'service before self' and its mission is to ensure national security and national unity, defend the nation from external aggression and internal threats, and maintain peace and security within its borders.
3. Comprising 80 per cent of the country's active defense personnel, the Indian Army is the biggest volunteer army in the world.
4. The Indian soldiers are considered among the very best on high altitudes, junglewarfare, and mountain warfare. The Siachenconflict is considered as an exemplary example of mountain warfare.
5. Operation Rahat, carried out by the Indian Army to evacuate those affected by 2013 North India floods, is considered as one of the biggest civilian rescueoperations in the world.
6. Baily Bridge in Ladakh, at the highest elevation in the world, was constructed by the Indian Army in 1982.
7. The Indian Army controls the highest battlefield in the world, Siachenglacier, 5000 metres above sea level.
8. The Indian horsedcavalry regiment is one of the last 3 remaining regiments in the world.
9. The Indian Army is one of the biggest contributors to the United Nations peaceoperations and has conducted large peace-time exercises like Operation Brasstacks and ExerciseShoorveer.
10. The Indian Army is one of the few armies in the world that has never initiated a war and its Peace Keeping Force is known for its counterinsurgency efforts.
11. Some of the iconicvictories of India include Kargilwar, Siachenconflict, Cholaincident, Liberation of Goa, Liberation of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, 2nd and 3rd Indo-Pakwar, Indo-Sinoconflict of 1967; and major operationsundertaken by the Indian Army are Operation Vijay, Operation Meghdoot and Operation Cactus. ■

# ORIGIN OF YOGA-INDIA

India celebrates the nation's Republic Day on January 26 each year. It is a day to remember when India's constitution came into force on January 26, 1950, completing the country's transition toward becoming an independent republic.

I thought let me first relate Yoga with the significance of Republic Day as India is the Land or the origin of Yoga. The dictionary meaning of "Republic" is a state in which supreme power is held by the people and their elected representatives, and which has an elected or nominated president rather than a monarch.

And what is the meaning of Yoga....

Yoga is essentially a spiritual discipline based on an extremely subtle science, which focuses on bringing harmony between mind and body. It is an art and science of healthy living. The word 'Yoga' is derived from the Sanskrit root 'Yuj', meaning 'to join' or 'to yoke' or 'to unite'. As per Yogic scriptures the practice of Yoga leads to the union of individual consciousness with that of the Universal Consciousness, indicating a perfect harmony between the mind and body, Man & Nature. According to modern scientists, everything in the universe is just a manifestation of the same quantum firmament. One who experiences this oneness of existence is said to be in yoga, and is termed as a yogi, having attained to a state of freedom referred to as mukti, nirvana or moksha. Thus the aim of Yoga is Self-realization, to overcome all kinds of sufferings leading to 'the state of liberation' (Moksha) or 'freedom' (Kaivalya). Living with freedom in all walks of life, health and harmony shall be the main objectives of Yoga practice. "Yoga" also refers to an inner science comprising of a variety of methods through which human beings can realize



this union and achieve mastery over their destiny. Yoga, being widely considered as an 'immortal cultural outcome' of Indus Saraswati Valley civilization – dating back to 2700 B.C., has proved itself catering to both material and spiritual upliftment of humanity. Basic humane values are the very identity of Yoga Sadhana.

In the same way, in Yoga, one himself is merging with the Supreme consciousness and becomes independent in its spirits and attains Moksha.

In this article I would like to give a little brief about the history of Yoga.

Yoga's history has many places of obscurity and uncertainty due to its oral transmission of sacred texts and the secretive nature of its teachings. The early writings on yoga were transcribed on fragile palm leaves that were easily damaged, destroyed or lost. The development of yoga can be traced back to over 5,000 years ago, but some researchers think that yoga may be up to 10,000 years old. Yoga's

long rich history can be divided into four main periods of innovation, practice and development.

## Pre-Classical Yoga

The beginnings of Yoga were developed by the Indus-Saraswati civilization in Northern India over 5,000 years ago. The word yoga was first mentioned in the oldest sacred texts, the Rig Veda. The Vedas were a collection of texts containing songs, mantras and rituals to be used by Brahmans, the Vedic priests. Yoga was slowly refined and developed by the Brahmans and Rishis (mystic seers) who documented their practices and beliefs in the Upanishads, a huge work containing over 200 scriptures. The most renowned of the Yogic scriptures is the Bhagavad-Gitâ, composed around 500 B.C.E. The Upanishads took the idea of ritual sacrifice from the Vedas and internalized it, teaching the sacrifice of the ego through self-knowledge, action (karma yoga) and wisdom (jnana yoga).

## Classical Yoga

In the pre-classical stage, yoga was a

mishmash of various ideas, beliefs and techniques that often conflicted and contradicted each other. The Classical period is defined by Patanjali's Yoga-Sûtras, the first systematic presentation of yoga. Written some time in the second century, this text describes the path of Raja Yoga, often called "classical yoga". Patanjali organized the practice of yoga into an "eight limbed path" containing the steps and stages towards obtaining Samadhi or enlightenment. Patanjali is often considered the father of yoga and his Yoga-Sûtras still strongly influence most styles of modern yoga.

**Post-Classical Yoga**

A few centuries after Patanjali, yoga masters created a system of practices designed to rejuvenate the body and prolong life. They rejected the teachings of the ancient Vedas and embraced the physical body as the means to achieve enlightenment. They

developed Tantra Yoga, with radical techniques to cleanse the body and mind to break the knots that bind us to our physical existence. This exploration of these physical-spiritual connections and body centered practices led to the creation of what we primarily think of yoga in the West: Hatha Yoga.

**Modern Period**

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, yoga masters began to travel to the West, attracting attention and followers. This began at the 1893 Parliament of Religions in Chicago, when Swami Vivekananda wowed the attendees with his lectures on yoga and the universality of the world's religions. In the 1920s and 30s, Hatha Yoga was strongly promoted in India with the work of T. Krishnamacharya, Swami Sivananda and other yogis practicing Hatha Yoga. Krishnamacharya opened the first Hatha Yoga school in Mysore in 1924

and in 1936 Sivananda founded the Divine Life Society on the banks of the holy Ganges River. Krishnamacharya produced three students that would continue his legacy and increase the popularity of Hatha Yoga: B.K.S. Iyengar, T.K.V. Desikachar and PattabhiJois. Sivananda was a prolific author, writing over 200 books on yoga, and established nine ashrams and numerous yoga centers located around the world

I am blessed that I was born in the country of Yoga and is on this divine mission of spreading the Classical Yoga and the Indian culture across this beautiful country – Hungary. In my past one year tenure I have met so many Hungarians who are in love with India and are learning the art of staying peaceful and balanced. ■

—Ankita Sood, *Yoga and Lifestyle Expert, ASCC, Embassy of India*

**OCCASIONAL PROGRAMMES in ASCC**

Details of the activities of the Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre, Budapest, during the month of December, 2018 are as under:

**Indian Film Club**

On first and third Friday of every month films are screened under the aegis of "Indian Cine Club" at the auditorium of Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre in Embassy Premises for Hungarian fans. From September-December some feature films were screened in ASCC and some of the films were screened in Ferenc Hopp Museum as per the agreement released with the museum hosting the exhibition titled Goddess – Woman – Devi cults and traditional female roles in India. In December the following films were screened: on 7 December, 2018 Pink (2016) in ASCC and on 14 December, 2018 Mother India (1957)

in Nyitott Műhely. Around 70 guests attended the screenings altogether.

**VIIIth Diplomatic Fair organized by Diplomatic Spouses of Budapest 2 December, 2018**



Sivasakti Kalananda Theatre performing

On 2 December, 2018, Embassy of India participated with its own National Stall and Food Stall in the Charity Bazaar organized by the



Ambassador Kumar Tuhin visiting the food stall



Fusion music by Zoltán Lantos and Pt Rajesh Gangani





Indian stall



Group photo of VIP persons

Diplomatic Spouses of Budapest. The event was declared open by the President of the Diplomatic Spouses of Budapest, Ms Bridget Lindsay, the British ambassador's wife. As patronesse of the event, Mrs. Anita Herczeg, wife of H.E. Mr. János Áder, President of Hungary was also present at the opening, after which she visited all the stalls and restaurants. The cultural programme included classical Indian dance: Bharatanatyam by Panni Somi and the Sivasakti Kalánanda Táncszínház performed on stage. Pt Rajesh Gangani and Zoltán Lantos played fusion Indian music prepared for the occasion. Henna painting was also offered in the India corner, where there were stalls of Szép Kis India Exotic Market, ISKCON handicraft items and Sheen Bhasin's jewellery items. Indian food (veg and non-veg) was provided by Haveli Restaurant this time.



Poem reciting of Gitanjali



Audience applauding

**MantraSOUND meditation-concert  
11 December, 2018**



Bharatanatyam dance



Mantra singing

On 11 December, 2018, ASCC organized a concert titled MantraSOUND meditation-concert with Vedic verses, dance by Hungarian artists versed in Indian philosophy and culture. Bakos Judit Eszter, Virinchi Shakti mantra singer, yoga teacher brought beautiful mantra songs on stage, upon which Éva Berki performed Bharatanatyam dance items. Bakos Attila writer, philosopher, poet read out excerpts from Rabindranath Tagore's Gitanjali poem, translated into Hungarian.

The concert showcased different mantras and their meaning, creating a special atmosphere and ambience for the evening.



Audience listening to the music

**Fusion music performance by  
Guessous Meshi and her friends  
18 December, 2018**

On 18 December, 2018 Guessous Meshi and her friends gave a soulful and colourful concert travelling through music traditions from Hungary to Turkey, Rajasthan and Morocco. Those lucky enough to be present heard songs of different life



Folk songs on cimbalom



Meshi and her group performing



Audience applauding



Folk instruments

phases, sometimes melancholic othertimes cheerful and full of joy as a wedding.

**Rajsthani dance performance by Judit Ábrahám**  
8 January, 2019



Judit Abraham performing

On 8 January, 2019, Judit Ábrahám performed in ASCC. Ms. Judit Ábrahám has been professionally engaged in Indian dance and music since 2000. She has been visiting Rajasthan, India on a regular basis since 2009 to learn and study the art of dance and to perform as well. She also regularly invites artistic groups with whom she gives performances both at home and abroad. The performance started with an introduction of Judit's



Judit Abraham with children



Judit Abraham performing



Ambassador felicitating the artist

career and basic history of Rajasthani dance. The programme (in the absence of live music) was a little different from the dance repertoires put on stage today in Rajasthan. The dances performed were on one hand part of the tradition of the Kalbeliya community, on the other hand they were choreographies made by Dr. Shashi Sankhla (kathak master and guru of Ms. Judit Ábrahám) and Judit herself. H.E. Kumar Tuhin, Ambassador of India and Madam Tanuja Shankar, Director of ASCC also attended the event.

**Amrita - dance theatre performance by Sivasakti Kalananda Dance Theatre**

29 January, 2019



Amrita theatre piece

tries to look behind the works of art of the painter through the atmosphere and topic of her paintings.

Besides the theatre play a panel exhibition on Amrita's life will be exhibited on the corridor.

**Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas**

Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas was celebrated on Jan 9, 2019, at the Embassy of India, Hungary where the two singers from Hungary and Bosnia (Jennifer Maga & Selma Muhedinovic respectively) were presented felicitation letters by H.E Kumar Tuhin, Ambassador of India to Hungary & BiH, signed by External Affairs Minister Mrs Sushma Swaraj for singing 'Vasihnav Jan To Tene Kahiye' in their own voices. On this occasion Dr Katalin Aklan, Indologist and Professor also rendered her speech titled 'Satyavarta' on the theme, 'Gandhian Values in Today's Times'.

**Khadi Exhibition**

On Jan 9, a Khadi Exhibition was



organised at the Embassy of India & Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre, in association with Khadi Village & Industries Commission India, where beautiful garments, fabric and products were displayed for the people to see.



Amrita theatre piece

On 29 January Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre commemorates the famous painter, Amrita Sher-Gil on the occasion of her birth anniversary. A special cultural programme is organized by Sivasakti Kalananda Dance Theatre led by Panni Somi, Bharatanatyam dancer.

Amrita Sher-Gil was born in Budapest in 1913 as the child of a Hungarian mother and an Indian father. She was one of the most interesting, most mysterious and most tragic artists of the first half of the 20th century. Her painting is a fusion of Indian and European art. In this ballet the turmoil of colours, passions and cultures, dreams and memories pay a dancing tribute to this extraordinary artist. The piece on Amrita is not biographical but

# Warp & Weft of Music Joining Hearts

By Sonali Roy

**M**y journey as a teacher of Kathak at the prestigious Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre started in July 2018. During these five months my observation has been that the people of Hungary are deeply rooted in their culture. They have a deep connection with the Art. Spiritualism can be felt in their art form. They obey, respect and try to understand Indian Spiritualism deeply. They are keenly interested in Indian Philosophy, Literature, Indian Aesthetics and traditional culture from the core of their heart.

They chant “Om” and Vedik Mantras with the ultimate belief to make their minds free of all anxieties.

I also feel the essence of a rare and interesting connection of technology with culture here. For example in “Krishna valley”, an eco-villages situated in Somogyvamos village, South West of Budapest, they prepare every house hold things on their own, following ancient Indian methods without the help of modern technology. Bhajan (devotional songs) and Indian Raga are being used as music therapy. They worship ‘Tulsi’ (holy basil) tree as their mother and sing Indian Bhajans for her proper nourishment and betterment.

One of the greatest poets of Bengali literature, world renowned Gurudev Rabindra Nath Tagore, who was awarded with Nobel prize in 1913 for the English translation of his collection of Bengali poems “Gitanjali”, once visited Balaton, a cool and calm place in Hungary. He stayed there beside the lake Balaton for some days and blessed the place with the creation of his unforgettable musical compositions. The native people respect him a lot and love his creation and prove once again that music is independent of any language barrier. It only takes the connection of one’s heart to resonate to another one’s just like the intricate warp and weft.

In this connection Embassy of India, Budapest is playing



Ms Sonali Roy

a vital role to enrich this artistic environment through providing an important platform for learning and performing these traditional Indian Art forms and thus bridging Indian and Hungarian Culture together. On her experience of learning Kathak dance at the Embassy Mina Kadowaki Sebok opined, “Not only it is fun to learn Kathak



Student's of Ms Sonali Roy performing

dance, but also it is my pleasure that I got the opportunity to involve with the Indian Culture directly through dance. According to my concept, Indian people are very kind and friendly. I always feel comfortable with them. Sometime, I wish to visit and experience the real fragrance of India". On the other hand Alexandra Komaromi says, "I feel some deep connection with Indian Culture from my childhood. Kathak dance gives me a compact feeling of Rhythm, footwork, sharp gesture, fast spin, elegant movement. It is a storytelling art form that's why it has a natural way of expression. I love every moment of it." To synchronise the traditional art form, and the modern sensibilities, the Kathak course at the Embassy of India constantly borrows from the present times, the fusion, the interactivity with the audience and of the other forms of art like the vocal music, films, folk lores, storytelling, and even spiritualism.

Another student Anna Szabo feels, "Kathak can give you everything if you put your body, mind and soul in it; liveliness and joy of the movements and speed; improvement of concentration in endless cycles of taal and challenge of your persona and knowledge about yourself through abhinaya and riyaz. It can be a spiritual journey."

In the end, I can only say that just like the warp and weft of the fine handloom thread, I experience that the Kathak form here in a country so far away from India, is



able to create novel designs in the form of movements, expressions, theatrics and artistic brilliance fragrant of the beauty and uniqueness of this land blended with the traditional dance form. I am waiting with eagerness to fuse and create newer realms in this form during my stay here and enrich the long lasting relationship that India and Hungary has enjoyed. ■

—The author is a Kathak Teacher,  
Amrita Sber-Gil Cultural Centre

# Key Activities During Recent Years

## HUNGARY

**Political:** The then Vice-President of India, Shri Hamid Ansari visited Hungary on 15-17 October, 2016. The visit coincided with the commemoration of Hungary's 60th anniversary of the 1956 revolution of October 23. Two MoUs on Water Management and between ICWA/IFAT were signed. The visit reinvigorated the bilateral relationship and generated sufficient political goodwill.

**Economic:** India has sizeable investments in Hungary (approx. US\$ 2 billion). India was the largest investor in Hungary in 2014 due to investment by Apollo Tyres and third largest in 2015 due to additional investment by SMR Group. The Indian investments in a number of sectors, especially automotive, in Hungary also cater to a wider region in Europe. On 21st November 2018, in a Press Conference FM Peter Szijjarto announced greenfield investment of Euro 71.50 million by M/s Flex Films Europa, a subsidiary of Uflex India Ltd. The company will establish a flexible packaging materials production plant in Rétság.

**Robust Institutional Mechanisms:** 5th JCEC Meeting (March 6-7, 2018) and 10th S&T Joint Committee Meeting in New Delhi (March 21, 2018). There is a keen desire to strengthen institutional framework on both sides.

**Culture:** Embassy organized the first ever “Ganga-Danube Cultural Festival” and the celebration of second International Day of Yoga in ten cities in Hungary in June 17-19, 2016. Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Minister of State (IC) for Culture, Tourism & Civil Aviation, inaugurated the Festival, the opening ceremony of which was held in the most prestigious venue in Budapest, Pesti Vigado, on June 17, 2016. Cultural relationship forms an essential core of our bilateral engagement with Hungary.

### Commemoration of 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relation between India and Hungary.

Government of Hungary organised 1st Hungarian Indian Film and Tourism Symposium in Hotel Novotel, Budapest on 13th November, 2018 to commemorate 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Hungary. Hungarian government invited Mr. Sanjay Dutt, film actor, Mr. Madhur Bhandarkar, renowned film director and other representatives from Indian film and tourism industries to promote Hungary as attractive destination for tourism and film making. The symposium was inaugurated by Ms. Cecilia Szilas, Deputy State Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The symposium received very good response and around 200 guests attended it. There were presentation and interactive sessions on opportunities and potential in Hungary for film making and tourism.

**Ayurveda and cooperation in health sector:** Mr. Rajesh Kotecha, Special Secretary, Ayush, and Prof. K.S. Dhiman, DG, Centre for Research in Ayurveda Sciences (CCRAS) visited Hungary from October 1-4, 2017. During the visit, an MOU between CCRAS and the University of Debrecen on the establishment of European Institute of Ayurvedic Sciences was signed. Propagation of Ayurveda in Hungary has a potential to profoundly impact the whole CEE region with India's alternative system of medicine and integrative healing.

**Tourism and people-to-people contacts:** E-Visa facility introduced on August 15, 2015 for Hungary, currently constitutes 69% of the total visas issued in 2017, (over a figure of 55% in 2016), thereby positively impacting tourism inflows; enhancing people-to-people contacts and ease of business for visa procedures.

### Bosnia & Herzegovina (BiH), (concurrent accreditation)

**Political:** Shri Suresh P. Prabhu, the then Hon'ble Minister of Railways, visited BiH from 6-8 July 2016 as a Special Envoy of the Prime Minister. This was the first ever visit by a Cabinet Minister from India in 20 years of establishment of diplomatic relations. The visit provided much needed fillip to the bilateral relationship with BiH.

**Robust Institutional engagement:** Dr. Nasim Zaidi, Chief Election Commissioner, visited BiH in September – October 2016, to oversee local elections as Head of Mission of Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB). An MOU between Election Commission of India and Central Election Commission of BiH was signed in January 2017, in India. The MoU is path-breaking as the country finds its way through a tough election law negotiations in the run up the general elections on October 8, 2018 and signing of the MoU would positively impact the capacity building of the election officials in BiH.

### Regular participation by India in BiH's trade and economic forums:

A delegation of 34 businessmen from India participated at the 8th Sarajevo Business Forum 2017, held on May 22-23 where India was one of the “Focus Countries”. Dr. Mladen Ivanic, Chairman of the Presidency, expressed happiness that India led one of the largest foreign delegations at the Forum, in a meeting with Ambassador. Regular participation also helps in countering China's growing profile in the country.

**Tourism and people-to-people contacts:** After the introduction of e-Visa facility for BiH on February 26, 2016, there has been a three-fold jump in the total visas issued to BiH nationals over 2016, significantly enhancing tourism inflows and people-to-people contacts. ■



# वन्दे मातरम्

वन्दे मातरम्

सुजलां सुफलां मलयजशीतलाम्  
शस्य श्यामलां मातरं  
शुभ्र ज्योत्स्न पुलकित यामिनीम्  
फुल्ल कुसुमित द्रुमदलशोभिनीम्,  
सुहासिनीं सुमधुर भाषिणीम्  
सुखदां वरदां मातरम् .. वन्दे मातरम् दोत्स

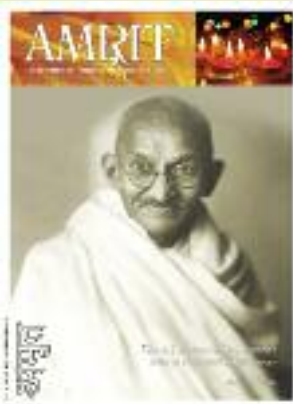
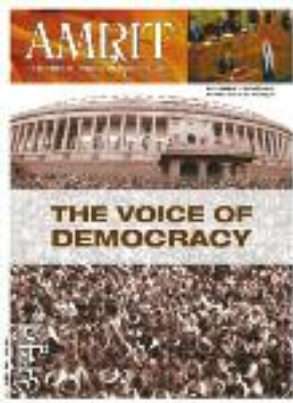
सप्त कोटि कन्ठ कलकल निनाद कराले  
निसप्त कोटि भुजैध्रुत खरकरवाले  
के बोले मा तुमी अबले  
बहुबल धारिणीं नमामि तारिणीम्  
रिपुदलवारिणीं मातरम् .. वन्दे मातरम् दोत्स

तुमि विद्या तुमि धर्म, तुमि हृदि तुमि मर्म  
त्वं हि प्राणाः शरीरे  
बाहुते तुमि मा शक्ति,  
हृदये तुमि मा भक्ति,  
तोमारै प्रतिमा गडि मंदिरे मंदिरे .. वन्दे मातरम् दोत्स

त्वं हि दुर्गा दशप्रहरणधारिणी  
कमला कमलदल विहारिणी  
वाणी विद्यादायिनी, नमामि त्वाम्  
नमामि कमलां अमलां अतुलाम्  
सुजलां सुफलां मातरम् .. वन्दे मातरम् दोत्स

श्यामलां सरलां सुस्मितां भूषिताम्  
धरणीं भरणीं मातरम् .. वन्दे मातरम् दोत्स

# Some of the previous issues of *Amrit*







**Embassy of India**  
Budapest, Hungary



**Republic Day  
of India**

**गणतन्त्र दिवस**

