

# AMRIT

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# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA

# Contents



5



7



11

Bilateral .....	5
Economy .....	17
Impressions .....	21
Religion .....	22
Hindi Section .....	24
Culture .....	26
Yoga Corner .....	37

## AMRIT

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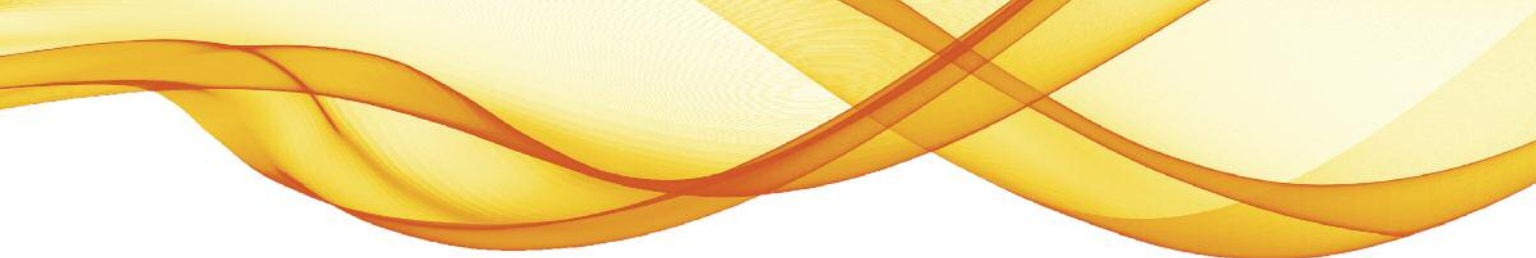
## *From Editor-in-Chief's Desk*



I will like to begin with the recent elections in India in May 2019 and how every Indian is feeling proud about this big festival of democracy. Truly a mammoth exercise with more than 1 million polling stations, more than 600 political parties and more than 8000 candidates, India conducted the elections efficiently and peacefully. More than 600 million voters, a number more than the population of almost all countries, came out to exercise their right to vote, weathering scorching heat in several areas. This is indeed an indicator of the strength of democracy in India and of the faith that people have in our institutions. I should add here that the strand of democracy also binds India and Hungary together.

We devoted the month of June to celebrating the International Day of Yoga. This year our cultural functions accompanying the International Day of Yoga were dedicated to India-Hungary partnership, because this is also the 70th anniversary year of the establishment of diplomatic relations. In order to ensure that the universal message of Yoga is transmitted to a wider audience, we carried out a sustained pre-event publicity campaign this year through TV, radio, posters and social media. I feel this had a very positive impact and resulted in better attendance at most locations. The Balna auditorium in Budapest was packed to capacity.

During the interviews that we did in preparation for the International Day of Yoga, one interesting thing I noted was that the question of why and if to do Yoga was just non-existent; it has already been convincingly answered by the experience of millions who have been practicing it for many years and benefitting from it. The questions that came were on how best to benefit from it, on time management, and so on. Of course, one point I never forget to mention is that yoga practitioners



should strive to stay true to its original principles, by going to its roots and understanding its core thought. If we don't do that, Yoga may cease to be Yoga.

To end this note, what better topic than the historic Moon mission by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO). ISRO is attempting the Chandrayaan-2 will soft land on the Moon making India only the fourth such nation. The components of Chandrayaan-2 include an Orbiter, a Lander and a Rover. The Rover has been named Pragyan—"wisdom" in Sanskrit, and it will hopefully answer many scientific queries. India's Moon Mission is already on its way. Our ambitions are high, our capabilities are established, our dreams will become true !

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

# Meeting with Hungary-India Parliamentary Friendship Group



**LEFT:** Ambassador and officials of the Embassy with the members of the Hungary-India Parliamentary Friendship Group.

**RIGHT:** Ambassador presenting his gift to Mr. Péter Cseresnyés, MP, State Secretary

**A**mbassador of India, H.E. Mr. Kumar Tuhin attended the inaugural meeting of the Hungary-India Parliamentary Friendship Group at the Parliament. During the meeting

he also discuss with members of the Group the ways to further strengthen bilateral ties. At the end of the meeting, he presented the members with the Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi. ■

## Yoga Seminar in Vép by Yoga in Daily Life



**LEFT:** Ambassador and Mrs. Deepa with Vishwaguru Paramhans Swami Maheshwarananda ji and Ms. Ankita Sood, yoga expert. **RIGHT:** Ambassador greeting Vishwaguru Paramhans Swami Maheshwarananda ji

**Y**oga in Daily Life invited Ambassador of India in Hungary, H.E Mr. Kumar Tuhin with his Spouse, Mrs. Deepa Tuhin as special guests at the spring seminar organised on the occasion of the visit of Vishwaguru Paramhans Swami Maheshwarananda ji to Vép, Hungary. Ms Ankita Sood, Yoga Expert of Embassy

accompanied them. Shri Krishnanand ji, along with thousands of sadhakas of Yoga in Daily Life from all across Europe including Swami Vivekpuri from Croatia, Swami Umapuri from Austria and many other eminent Gurus were present on this very special day. Ambassador addressed the devotees and spoke about the upcoming International Day of Yoga 2019. ■

# INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL EVENING AT SZEGED UNIVERSITY

**M**r. N. Venkataraman, Second Secretary and Head of Chancery represented the Embassy of India at the International Cultural Evening organised by students of University of Szeged on 13 April.

He met with Prof. Dr. György Lázár, Dean of University of Szeged and Prof. Dr. Márta Széll, Vice - Rector of University of Szeged. ■



Mr. Venkataraman, Second Secretary and Mrs. Venkataraman with Vice-Rector and the Dean of the University of Szeged

## THE 10<sup>TH</sup> SARAJEVO BUSINESS FORUM



**LEFT:** Attendees of the 10th Sarajevo Business Forum. **RIGHT:** Ambassador and Mr. Sanjeev Manchanda in discussion with representatives at the business forum

**T**he 10th Sarajevo Business Forum, Touted as Davos of Western-Balkans, was attended by Ambassador and CR on 17-18 April. Themed on 'One Region One Economy' the event is a leading investment forum which saw a participation of President of Slovenia,

H.E. Borut Pahor, Vice-President of Turkey, H.E. Fuat Oktay; Prime Minister of Malaysia, YAB Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad and Presidency members of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The event demonstrated the strength of BiH's investment climate

wherein nearly 300 projects in the field of tourism, education, agriculture and wood industry were showcased. This was also the 10th edition of the forum, successively from 2010. Ambassador had an opportunity to meet with the political leadership of BiH and also addressed the media. ■

# Welcome Dinner & Cultural Program

Ambassador and CR attended the official Welcome Dinner and Cultural Program organized by the Sarajevo Business Forum authorities where they interacted with participants from other countries. ■



Ambassador and Mr. Manchanda with fellow guests at the event

## Meeting with H.E. Mr. Bakir Izetbegović



Ambassador in discussion with H.E. Mr. Bakir Izetbegović, former Bosniak member of the Presidency

Ambassador met with H.E. Mr. Bakir Izetbegović, former Bosniak member of the tripartite Presidency of BiH, Chairman of the House of Peoples of BiH, and President of the Party of Democratic Action (SDA), the largest political party of BiH. ■

## Sarajevo Business Forum Press Conference



Ambassador addressing the media

Ambassador Shri Kumar Tuhin addressed the media during the 10th Sarajevo Business Forum outlining India's economic potential, India-BiH relationship, forthcoming 5th International Day of Yoga and ongoing celebrations of 150th Birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. ■

# Visit to Sarajevo



**LEFT:** Ambassador with Ms. Dunja Masic, President and Mrs. Fatima Cita-Somun, former President of the Indo-Bosnia-Herzegovina Friendship Group. **RIGHT:** Ambassador and Mr. Manchada engaged in discussion at the dinner

**O**n 18 April a lunch was hosted by Ms. Dunja Masic, President of the Indo-Bosnia & Herzegovina Friendship Society in honour of Ambassador

during his first trip to Sarajevo. Ambassador discussed ideas with the Society members on taking forward the India-BiH relationship to the next level. ■

## Meeting with Leaders of the Universities of Sarajevo



Ambassador is in talk with Prof. Dr. Rifat Škrijelj, Rector, University of Sarajevo on 19th April. During the meeting Prof. Dr. Aleksandra Nikolić, Vice-Rector for International Cooperation, Prof. Sanja Burić, Vice-Rector for Arts, Culture and Sports, Ms. Dijana Smajlovic, Public Relations Officer, Mr. Miroslav Živanović, Head of Rector's Office and Mr. Sanjeev Manchanda, Education Officer of the Embassy were also present



Ambassador felicitating Prof. Dr. Rifat Škrijelj, Rector, University of Sarajevo with a silk shawl

**U**niversities are not only institutions of higher learning, but also crucible of new ideas of future cooperation. Outlining India's forays in both traditional and emerging areas of

development, Ambassador met with Rectors of University of Sarajevo, and SSST - Univerzitet Sarajevo School of Science and Technology and with Dean of Medical Faculty, University of Sarajevo during his recent visit to Sarajevo on





**LEFT:** Meeting at the University of Sarajevo on 19th April. Ambassador along with Prof. Dr. Rifat Škrijelj, Rector, Prof. Dr. Aleksandra Nikolić, Vice-Rector for International Cooperation, Prof. Sanja Burić, Vice-Rector for Arts, Culture and Sports, Ms. Dijana Smajlovic, Public Relations Officer, Mr. Miroslav Živanović, Head of Rector's Office and Mr. Sanjeev Manchanda, Education Officer of the Embassy. **CENTER:** Ambassador is greeting Prof. Ejup Ganic, Chancellor of University Sarajevo School of Science and Technology, SSST. Present were Prof. Semira Galijasevic, Dean of Sarajevo Medical School and Mr. Sanjeev Manchanda, Education Officer of the Embassy. **RIGHT:** Ambassador is handing over a book on 'Navigating India' to Prof. Dr. Semra Cavaljuga, Dean, Medical Faculty of University of Sarajevo. Professor Mirza Dilić, MD PhD, Vice Dean for Science and International Relations and Mr. Sanjeev Manchanda, Education Officer of the Embassy were also present

18-19 April. Some concrete areas of potential cooperation scientific and cultural workshops and development in educational exchanges, Ayush systems, economic, cooperation emerged. ■

# Visit to ArcelorMittal



**LEFT:** Ambassador and Mr. Manchanda at the round-table discussion with leaders of ArcelorMittal. **RIGHT:** Ambassador and Mr. Manchanda given a tour

**A**mbassador of India, Shri Kumar Tuhin accompanied by Shri Sanjeev Manchanda, Commercial Representative and Ms. Klaudia Kovács, Marketing Assistant paid an official visit to ArcelorMittal, Zenica the largest Indian investment in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 18 April as part of his official tour to Sarajevo. He was received by Mr. P. K. Biju Nair, CEO and his Team.

ArcelorMittal has invested USD 200 million in the country and has been the No. 1 exporter in 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017. The company accounts for 2.5 percent of the country's GDP and employs 2,400 workers directly and

10,000 indirectly.

Ambassador was given a tour of the plant and apprised of the safety, environmental and other initiatives of the company. The company also contributes to the social economy of the region and as part of its CSR initiative has undertaken projects in the areas of education, sports, culture and local community development. The total number of projects is 300 in 13 years of its operation.

As part of the culmination of the visit Mr. P.K.Biju Nair and his Team hosted Ambassador for a dinner. ■

# Yoga Festival in Budapest



**LEFT:** Ambassador and Ms. Ankita Sood with the organisers of the Budapest Yoga Festival.  
**RIGHT:** Ambassador addressing the guests and organisers of the Yoga Festival

**H**is Excellency Ambassador of India in Hungary Shri Kumar Tuhin inaugurated the Yoga Festival Budapest at Akvárium Klub which was organized by the Hungarian Yoga Teacher's Association and Bhaktivedanta College in Budapest. Ms Ankita Sood, Yoga and Lifestyle Expert conducted a Special

Yoga Session on Pancha Koshas from Upanishads and shared the yogic techniques to manage Stress in today's world. Hundreds of Yoga Enthusiasts attended this session to learn from the authentic source from India on this very special occasion. IDY 2019 was also announced by Ambassador to the Yoga lovers. ■

# Promoting the State of Goa



**LEFT:** Ambassador was felicitated by Mr. D. B. Sawant, General Manager of the Goa Tourism.  
**RIGHT:** R-L: Mr. D. B. Sawant, General Manager of the Goa Tourism, Dr. Gergely Tapolczai, Deputy Chairperson of HIPFG; Ms. Dr. Andrea Varga Damm, Co-Chair of HIPFG; Ambassador Shri Kumar Tuhin; Mr. Attila Mesterházy, Member of HIPFG and Mr. Sanjeev Manchanda, Commercial Representative, Embassy of India

**E**mbassy of India in collaboration with Government of Goa organized a State promotion event on April 30, in Budapest, for the State of Goa wherein the touristic, economic, cultural and gastronomical highlights of the state were showcased. The

event was graced by distinguished Members of the Hungary-India Parliamentary Friendship Group. Ambassador Shri Kumar Tuhin was the Chief Guest and stated that the event was organized as part of 70th anniversary celebrations of India-Hungary diplomatic relations. ■

# Visit of Her Highness Shankarachariya Sadhvi Hemanand Giri



**LEFT:** Ambassador greeting Her Highness Shankarachariya Sadhvi Hemanand Giri.

**RIGHT:** Madame Deepa receiving a warm welcome from the Saraswati Foundation

On 3rd May 2019 an event was organised by Saraswati Foundation to welcome Her Highness Shankarachariya Sadhvi Hemanand Giri, the chief exponent of Vedic philosophy of the Pashupatinath Temple in Kathmandu, Nepal. The guest of honour was Ambassador of India Mr. Kumar Tuhin and his spouse Madam Deepa. The chief guests of the event were

Shankarachariya Sadhvi Hemanand Giri ji and Dr. Ajay Singh the President of World Hindu Federation.

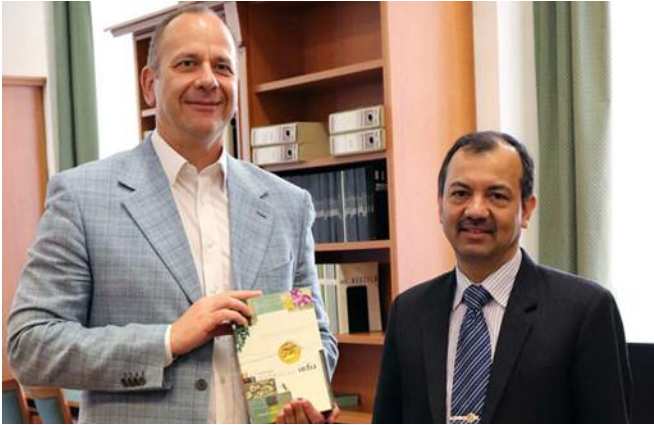
On that occasion Ms. Sonali Roy, kathak Dance Teacher cum Performer & Mr. Chirayu Bhole, Tabla teacher cum performer of Embassy of India, Budapest were invited to showcase Traditional Indian Classical Dance and Tabla. ■

## Visit to Faculty of Humanities, ELTE University

Ambassador H.E. Mr. Kumar Tuhin met with Dr. László Borhy, Rector, Dr. Imre Hamar, Vice Rector for International Affairs of ELTE University and Dr. Gábor Sonkoly, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities on 8 May. He discussed strengthening of cooperation with the University. Ambassador gifted a set of 40 books comprising of known Indian classics and books on history, culture and art of India to Dr. Gábor Sonkoly, Dean of the Faculty for creating a 'Bharat Ek Parichay – Sharing Knowledge with the World' corner at the Szeffű Gyula Library of the History Institute. Ambassador also visited the Department of Modern and



Ambassador with Dr. László Borhy Rector, Dr. Gábor Sonkoly, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Dr. Ramachandra Byrappa from ELTE and Mr. T.P.S. Rawat, Second Secretary paying their respects at the bust of Tagore



Contemporary History where he interacted with the students doing their research and thesis on the history, diplomatic relations and cultural history of India. Dr. Ramachandra Byrappa from ELTE and Mr. T.P.S. Rawat, Second Secretary accompanied him. ■

Ambassador presenting the donation of books to Dr. Gábor Sonkoly, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities

## Inauguration of new Samvardhana plant



**LEFT:** Ambassador with Mr. Vivek Chaand Sehgal, Chairman of Samvardhana Motherson Group.

**RIGHT:** Mr. Vivek Chaand Sehgal, Chairman of Samvardhana Motherson Group with Mr. Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary

**A**mbassador Kumar Tuhin attended the inauguration of new Samvardhana plant on 22 May 2019 in Túrkeve. Mr. Vivek Chaand Sehgal, Chairman of Samvardhana Motherson Group and Mr. Péter

Szjijártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade were also present at the event. During the discussions, the distinguished gentlemen discovered the avenues to further build a stronger India Hungary economic partnership together. ■

## Preparations For Film Festival in Budapest

**C**urator IFFW, Captain Rahul Bali called on H. E. Ambassador of India Sh. Kumar Tuhin at his office to apprise him of the developments and preparations being done for the Indian Film Festival Hungary. The Festival scheduled to be organised in Budapest in October 2019 and is aimed towards spreading the fragrance of India in Hungary.



Ambassador receiving Captain Rahul Bali in his office

## Meeting with Mr. Zoltán Mága



Acclaimed violin artist, Mr. Zoltán Mága presenting a special gift to H.E. Ambassador Kumar Tuhin

Ambassador Kumar Tuhin received acclaimed and legendary Hungarian violin artist, Mr. Zoltán Mága in his office. They had a highly fruitful meeting during which they discussed future cooperation and strengthening Indian-Hungarian cultural relations. ■

## Meeting with Rector of Semmelweis University



Ambassador engaged in discussion with Prof. Béla Merkely, Rector of Semmelweis University

Ambassador Mr. Kumar Tuhin met Prof. Béla Merkely, Rector of Semmelweis University. During the meeting possibilities of future cooperation were discussed. ■

## Tree Plantation for Gandhi@150 in Krishna Valley



**LEFT:** H.E. Mr. Kumar Tuhin, Ambassador of India planting a sapling in Krishna Valley on the occasion of celebration of World Environment Day. **RIGHT:** Ambassador with members of ISKCON, local dignitaries and Embassy officials at the event



On 5 June H.E. Mr. Kumar Tuhin, Ambassador of India visited Krishna Valley in Somogyvámos. Coinciding with the World Environment Day, Ambassador along with the Mayor of Somogyvámos, Ms. Marianna Károly Dékányné and

members of the ISKCON Hungary planted 150 trees dedicated to the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. At the event a commemorative plaque acknowledging the contribution and support of the Embassy of India was also unveiled. ■

## Meeting with Deputy State Secretary for Development of Eastern Relations



Ambassador and Dr. András Baranyi, Deputy State Secretary for Development of Eastern Relations

**H**.E. Mr. Kumar Tuhin, Ambassador of India met with Dr. András Baranyi, Deputy State Secretary for Development of Eastern Relations on June 13, 2019 and discussed matters of bilateral interest.

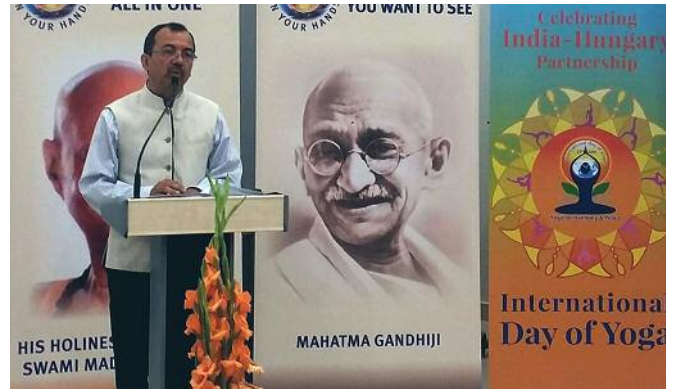
## Rath Yatra festival



Mr. Venkataraman, Second Secretary reading out the message of Ambassador

**R**epresenting the Embassy of India, Budapest Mr. N.Venkataraman, Second Secretary and Head of Chancery attended the colorful Rath Yatra festival on 29 June, organised by ISKCON Hungary and, on behalf of Ambassador Kumar Tuhin addressed the assembled guests and devotees to convey the message of Ambassador.

## Gandhi@150 Conference at Győr University



**LEFT:** Ambassador attending the opening ceremony of the Conference. **RIGHT:** Ambassador addressing the Conference

**A** Conference to commemorate 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi was held at Széchenyi István University Győr on 4th July, 2019. Speaking at the Conference, Ambassador Kumar Tuhin highlighted the important message of Mahatma Gandhi's teachings that are as relevant today as they were in his time. The Conference celebrated multiple anniversaries including 70th Anniversary of the establishment of Diplomatic

Relations between India and Hungary. Dr. Ferenc Dancs, Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade marked the significance of celebrating 70 years of friendship between India and Hungary which is firmly based on mutual respect and trust. Ambassador Kumar Tuhin also conveyed his gratitude to the Széchenyi István University, Győr and Yoga in Daily Life, Hungary for promoting Yoga in Hungary and for their support in celebrating International Day of Yoga. ■

# Meeting of India-Hungary Business Association

**A** formative meeting of the India-Hungary Business Association was held on Friday, July 5, 2019 at the Embassy. Ambassador Shri Kumar Tuhin applauded Indian businesses unequivocal focus on integration into an institutional force.



Ambassador with members of the India-Hungary Business Association at the formative meeting

## Meeting with Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Ambassador greeting Dr. Norbert Révai-Bere, newly appointed Director General

**H**.E. Ambassador Kumar Tuhin called on newly appointed Director General of Department of Fastest Growing Economies, MFAT on July 10 and extended his greetings. ■

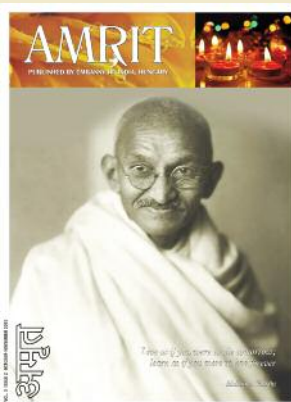
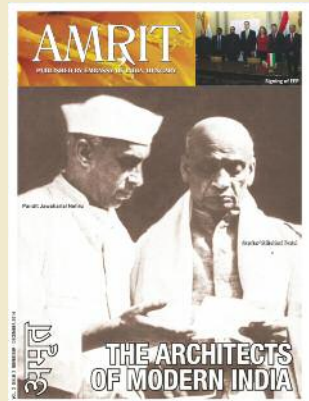
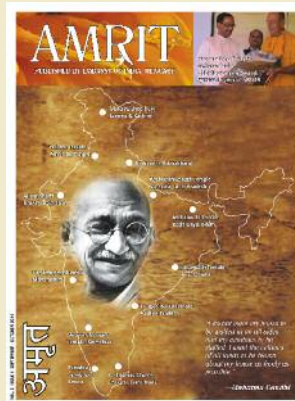
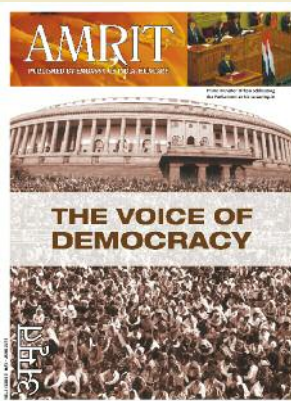
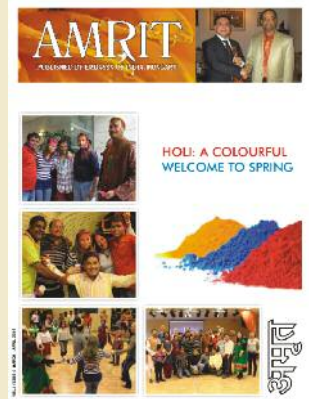
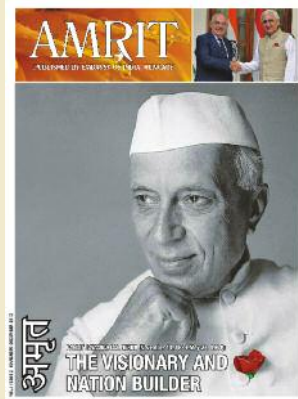
## Meeting with Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Defence



Ambassador in meeting with Mr. Gergely Németh, Deputy State Secretary of the Ministry of Defence

**A**mbassador Mr. Kumar Tuhin called on Deputy State Secretary, Mr. Gergely Németh, Ministry of Defence, Hungary on July 25. ■

# Some of the previous issues of *Amrit*





# Press Release on Embassy of India's participation in 10<sup>th</sup> Sarajevo Business Forum, BiH



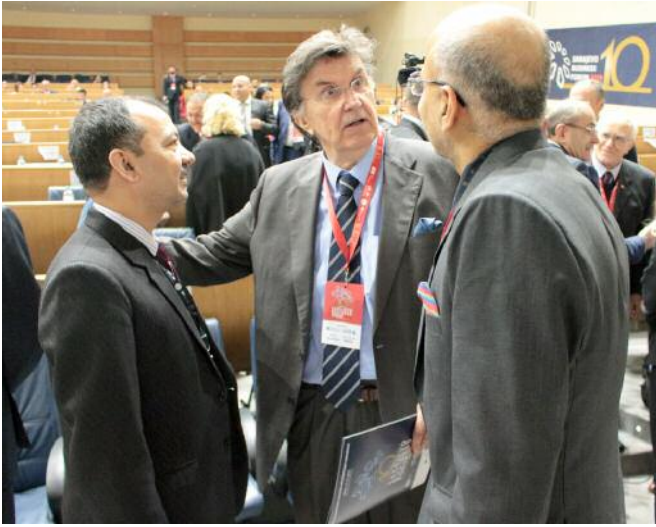
Opening Ceremony of the 10<sup>th</sup> Sarajevo Business Forum in the National Parliament building of BiH on 17<sup>th</sup> April

The Embassy of India participated in the 10th Sarajevo Business Forum in Sarajevo (17-19 April 2019), Bosnia & Herzegovina (BiH). Embassy had also participated in 2017 and 2018 editions of the event.

The forum themed on 'One Region-One Economy' sought to focus on expanding international regional economic cooperation with special focus on youth and their project ideas. The event, one of the biggest business and investment conference of Southeast Europe attracted around 2,000 guests from 50 countries. It demonstrated the strength of BiH's investment climate wherein close to 350 projects were showcased and 450 business meetings were



Ambassador attending the Opening Ceremony of the 10<sup>th</sup> Sarajevo Business Forum



Ambassador (left) with Mr. Sanjeev Manchanda, Commercial Representative (right) in discussion with a delegate during the Sarajevo Business Forum 2019

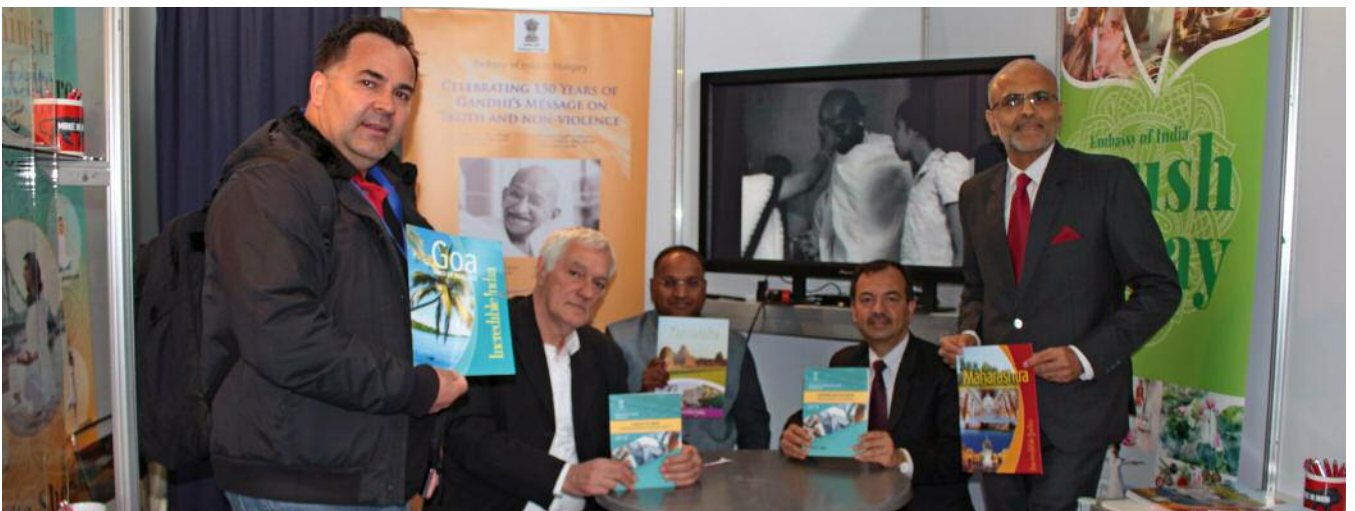
held in the fields of tourism, education, agriculture, IT sector, wood industry and other emerging sectors. The forum was attended by high ranking dignitaries including H.E. Milorad Dodik, Chairman, Presidency of BiH.

Embassy officials attended the Opening Ceremony, the Plenary session as well as other segments and side events related to the forum. During their interaction with BiH officials and other participants, the business and trade opportunities in India and the potential in India- BiH economic and trade cooperation was highlighted. ■



Ambassador along with H.E. Mr. Hideyuki SAKAMOTO, Ambassador of Japan to Bosnia and Herzegovina

## Press Release on Embassy of India's participation in 22<sup>nd</sup> Mostar International Economic Fair, BiH



Promotion of States of India and their Business Potential



**LEFT:** Ambassador Speaking to BHRT TV on India's participation at the Mostar Fair.

**RIGHT:** Visit to INTERA Technology Park to explore bilateral cooperation



**T**he Embassy of India participated in the 22nd International Economic Fair in Mostar (9-13 April 2019), Bosnia & Herzegovina (BiH). Embassy had also participated in 2016 and 2018 editions of the event.

Indian Embassy's stand was inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Mirko Sarovic, Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ambassador of India Mr. Kumar Tuhin. The Embassy's stand was visited by a large number of persons, including dignitaries like Mr. Ljubo Grkovic, DG Asia and Africa Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; senior officials from the business and trade departments of the Govt of Bosnia & Herzegovina; other exhibitors and public. The focus of India's stand this year was to strengthen 'Brand India', as well as to seek and promote cooperation with BiH companies in flagship schemes of the Govt of India such as Make in India, Incredible India, etc. Since this year is the 150th birth

anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Indian Embassy's stand also highlighted Mahatma's contribution to India's freedom struggle and in spreading the message of non-violence and peace to the world.

As part of Mission's efforts to publicize the business environment and potential of various states of India, information and publicity material on various states of India was distributed. The Embassy also kept a special section on promotion of Ayurveda, in view of increasing interest in Ayurveda in a number of countries around the world.

During the Mostar Fair, Ambassador held a meeting with the Foreign Investment Promotion Agency (FIPA) of BiH and visited the 'Intera' Technology Park. SS (Pol&Com) and Commercial Representative Mr. Sanjeev Manchanda and Marketing Assistant Mr. Andras Havas also attended several B2B meetings on the side-lines of the fair, and responded to a number of business and trade enquiries. ■

## Press Release on GOA Tourism Road Show on April 30, 2019 in Budapest

**E**mbassy of India in collaboration with Department of Tourism, Government of Goa organized a Road Show to promote touristic, economic, cultural and gastronomical highlights of the state of Goa on April 30, 2019 in Budapest, Hungary. The event was organised under the aegis of the 70th Anniversary Celebrations of India-Hungary diplomatic relations. Members of the newly set up Hungary-India Parliamentary Friendship Group were also present.

Ambassador Shri Kumar Tuhin, who was the Chief Guest and spoke on the complementarities of the India-Hungary relations, highlighted the potential of State of Goa. Ambassador also mentioned that this event was a follow up event from the Indian side to the Film and Tourism Symposium organized by the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade on 13th November 2018. Ambassador also felicitated Mr. Shrinath Badiger, a local yoga instructor and a person of Goan origin. Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Dr. Andrea Varga Damm, Co-Chair of Hungary-India



LEFT: Mr. Kedar Dhume, CEO, Advertising Associates Agency, Government of India welcomes the audience.



RIGHT: Ambassador addressing the Goa Tourism Road Show



R-L: Mr. Kedar Dhume, CEO, Advertising Associates Agency; Mr. Attila Mesterházy, Member of HIFPG; Mr. Dr. Gergely Tapolczai, Deputy Chairperson of HIFPG; Dr. Andrea Varga Damm, Co-Chair of HIFPG; Ambassador Shri Kumar Tuhin; Mr. D. B. Sawant, General Manager of the Goa Tourism, and Mr. Sanjeev Manchanda, Commercial Representative, Embassy of India, Mr. Shrinath Badiger, local yoga instructor and a person of Goa origin; Mr JayeshKankonkar, Asstt. Tourist Officer, Dpt of Tourism, Govt. of Goa

Parliamentary Friendship Group appreciated the potential of State of Goa and the momentum in the Hungary-India bilateral relationship and hoped that a larger number of Hungarian tourists would visit Goa and other states in India.

Mr. D. B. Sawant, General Manager of the Goa Tourism Development Corporation thanked the Mission for extending all the support in successful organizing of the event, which was attended by approx. 50 members from tour and travel industry apart from local dignitaries. The event ended with a reception serving authentic Indian/Goan food. ■



Ambassador being felicitated by Mr. D. B. Sawant, General Manager of the Goa Tourism

# Impressions..

By Tanuja Shankar, Director, ASCC

**B**y now I can proudly say that I have seen multitude shades of Budapest..a city rich in culture, mix of the eclectic and artistic and one that is seeped in history at every nook and corner yet abounds in nature's best. In the last 8 months, I travelled to several cities and villages, walked through lanes and cobbled streets, gazed at many edifices of archaic nature and smelled the fragrance of the changing seasons. Late autumn merged beautifully into the frosty, silvery winter, where the tree tops and holly leaves quivered with shards of snow, sparkling colours of Christmas gave way to the short but sweet spring , quickly turning a leaf and embracing the warm summer. Coming from a country where, I witness long bouts of sultry summer, and short period of chilly winter with erratic spurts of rains sandwiched in between, the weather of Budapest is indeed the highlight of my stay here. I see many similarities between the weather and the cultural tapestry of Budapest or rather Hungary.The people adjust their lifestyle according to the weather and the change in seasons. An early crisp spring morning might find hordes of people taking brisk walks through the beautiful Margaret island. The onset of summers would invariably affect everyone's plans and a busy calendar of holidays, concerts, picnics, family outings would emerge. As summer approaches, one can see the entire country busy in making their holidays to places like Balaton, a tour through the Danube bend, the refreshing thermal baths or night cruises under the sparkling night sky, or go for the open air free concerts. Few tourists would know that the month of July, the iconic Liberty Bridge is closed for public during weekends but open for artistic endeavours like live music, painting demonstrations or even a flash yoga..something that Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre organised and saw a surprisingly big attendance.Days are longer. Nights are balmy. Autumn is knocking the door. And the city is throbbing with anticipation, of new events, new moments to share and a welcoming approach for one and all. The Cultural Centre is all geared up to welcome the coming season with some glittering occasions that would set the pace of the year end rolling and hearken the new season and new year with a promise...



...Joy freed from the bond of earth's slumber  
rushes into numberless leaves,  
and dances in the air for a day..  
..The faded flower sighs  
that the spring has vanished for ever..  
My fancies are fireflies, —  
Specks of living light  
twinkling in the dark....  
~ *Rabindranath Tagore, 'Fireflies'*

And I am holding on to the promising season of mellifluous art and culture, that is just round the corner..just like the fanciful fireflies of Tagore..twinkling..welcoming..

—Tanuja Shankar, Director,  
Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre

# KUMBH MELA 2019

By Adam Lazar



## Global Participation

The Indian Government for the first time in the history of the Kumbh Mela Festivals decided to make this, the one in 2019, a miniature meeting of the United Nations. The aim was to celebrate together. H.E. Prime Minister Modi and his Organisers from all over the world chose 181 Global Participants. Each Participant became the Ambassador of his country to be present at the largest collective meeting on Earth for religion.

As we know astrology is one of the most important sciences in India. The Organisers inviting the Global Representatives for the 2019 Kumbh Mela Festival consulted astrologers to make sure that the day that the Participants will spend at Prayagraj will be the most auspicious one. So, the day of the invitation changed several times.

To decide who will be chosen, the Officials in the Indian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and at the Indian Council for Cultural Relations based on their embassies' and consulates' proposals, examined hundreds, perhaps thousands of



possible candidates to choose one from each country to be an Ambassador. On the recommendations of His Excellencies, former Ambassador H.E. Rahul Chhabra and present Ambassador H.E. Kumar Tuhin my participation was suggested, and Delhi accepted. I became the Ambassador on behalf of Hungary at the 2019 Kumbh Mela Festival.



The Organisers took great care of the Global Participants. We were put in a hotel that was only a few minutes away from the airport. On the day of our visit to Prayag we were lent one of the Prime Ministers planes. We had enough time to enquire after the long flights, could choose the kind of food that we were used to, and had some time to meet each other. It was fascinating to find out how the different participants won this great honour, what have they done in their various profession for India? Even if we did not have enough time to learn each other's names we learnt some of the countries others came from. A kind of friendship developed among the Ambassadors. Until the time came to see who is going to stand next or near to H.E. Modi for the press photos.

The Kumbh Mela comprises of many rituals including bathing ones. This by far is the most significant ceremonial performed at the Kumbh. Millions of pilgrims take part in the bathing ritual at the Triveni Sangam. Performing this sacred ceremony is in accordance with the belief that by submerging themselves in the holy waters of the Gangathey are purged of all their sins, release themselves and their ancestors from the cycle of rebirth and ultimate attainment of Moksha. Along with the bathing ritual, the pilgrims also worship on the banks of the holy river and participate in discourses from various sadhus and saints.

At one of the internet sites giving details of the Kumbh

Mela one can read about the holy men, of the Festival, stating: "you can meet them at every street corner". What makes the Kumbh Mela so unique and so spectacular is the participation of Gurus, Hindu saints, Sadhus, Nagas, fanatic followers, religious leaders and ordinary pilgrims. Some of them travel for days, some walk for weeks. There are some who stay for a few months. They sing, dance and pray. They listen to the teachings of their gurus and meditate. Estimates about the number of Kumbh Mela participants differ widely, depending which source one would use as a reference. The Maha (Great) Kumbh Mela is held every 144 years at Prayag. The 2001 (just ordinary one) attracted some 60 million, the 2013, that was a Maha Festival when I visited the celebration for the first time was supposed to have over 100 million. The one, this year, in 2019 was predicted to beat even that record. We never learnt the actual figures. But how can one count or even estimate tens of millions?

Although taking a dip in the sacred waters on all days of the Kumbh beginning on the first day of the Festival, (when the Sun enters Capricorn) is considered holy, yet there are some specific auspicious bathing dates. There are magnificent processions of saints and their disciples, and members of various Akharas (religious orders) take part in the ritual at the start of Kumbh. It is called the Shahi Snan and that is the central highlight of Kumbh Mela and the most important part of the celebration. It is only after, that

people can take the holy bath, in the belief that the people will get the added advantage of the essence of holy deeds and thoughts of the saints by taking the dip after them.

Back to the saints of the Festival: whom “you can meet at every street corner”. Well, that did not and could not happen to us. Perhaps because H.E. Modi’s visit or because of our Global participation the Kumbh Mela in 2019 was sterile. Sterile not only of waist produced by the millions but of people. Tens of thousands of police, military and security personnel lined and closed off the area that was designated to the Prime Minister’s visit. We a day earlier were taken to this part

also as a dress rehearsal to H.E. Modi’s visit and were shown images of the different ages of Indian culture. It was a visit to a museum closed off reality. Since I was at the Kumbh yet completely closed off it I had to remember some of the facts I was told by a professor: “Every river is related to knowledge. This is a place of Indian spirituality. The Ganga represents 1200 Indian languages, 120 different faiths. When people are sitting on the embankments with their eyes closed, they are meditating. They live life, we, with our eyes open talk about life. If you want to understand the Kumbh Mela you must be present, there. People say that the Nagas are naked. No, they are covered by ashes. No animal wears clothes. The Nagas indicate that we were ashes and we will become ashes again. They express that when the Kumbh- the pitcher- a symbol of the human body breaks, somebody dies, we Hindus break the pitcher and the inside units can unite with the outside ones. Since the Kumbh Mela started, an estimated 175 million came to renew themselves



culturally, socially before this meeting. A congregation of people, cultures and religions is this Festival.

What was perhaps most memorable for us Global Participants, that on the sides of the closed off roads thousands of school children in their school uniforms were waving the Indian and the national flags of the participating nations, shouting as we were passing them: “Jai Hind! Long live India!” As a nice gesture, the Organisers put a gift package together for the Global Ambassadors comprising booklets on facts about the Kumbh Mela. And they put a coconut in also. At the airport before departure my cases were pulled apart saying it is not allowed to take coconut out of the country. I argued: “but this one I got from the Prime Minister of India. It is a special gift”. I could see that the officials who took the coconut away had a doubt in their eyes, indicated they have heard many unbelievable stories but this one is a new one. ■

## HINDI SECTION

### कविता संग्रह

# हंगरी के चेन ब्रिज से यमुना को देख रही है दिलीप शाक्य की पुस्तक 'मैं और वह'

‘मैं और वह’ की कविताएं फारसी कवि हाफिज की ‘वेस्ट ईस्ट दीवान में’ और इकबाल की ‘पयामे मशरिक’ की याद दिलाती हैं.

साहित्य के जरिए भारत और हंगरी के रिश्तों को मजबूत करने का प्रयास किया जा रहा है. डॉ. दिलीप शाक्य ने अपने कविता संग्रह ‘मैं और वह’ के जरिए इसी प्रयास को मजबूत करने की

कोशिश की है. डॉ. दिलीप शाक्य की पुस्तक का विमोचन 28 मार्च को दिल्ली के इंदिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय कला केंद्र में किया गया. पुस्तक विमोचन के उपरांत हुए विचार-विमर्श में दोनों देशों के साहित्य प्रेमी





### डॉ. दिलीप शाक्य की कविता संग्रह 'मैं और वह' का इंदिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय कला केंद्र में हुआ विमोचन

शामिल हुए. कार्यक्रम के दौरान हंगेरियन संस्कृतिक केंद्र के निदेशक डॉ. जोल्टान विल्हेम्स, दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय की हंगेरियन भाषा की विजिटिंग प्रोफेसर मारगित कोवेश ने पुस्तक के बारे में अपने विचार प्रस्तुत किये.

इस दौरान, मारगित कोवेश ने कहा कि दिलीप शाक्य की रचनाएं बेहद खास है. उनकी कविताएं रवींद्रनाथ टैगोर और हंगेरियन कवि योजेफ अत्तिला की याद दिलाती हैं. उन्होंने कहा कि जैसे टैगोर और योजेफ अत्तिला आधुनिकता और परम्परा को मिलाते हैं. योजेफ अत्तिला की कविता 'बाई द डेन्यूब' (१९३६) को भी वे याद करती हैं. उन्होंने कहा कि जर्मन कवि गोयथे ने फारसी कवि हाफिज के साथ मिलकर 'वेस्ट ईस्ट दीवान में' नामक एक काल्पनिक यात्रा लिखी थी. जिसका जबाब इकबाल ने १९२२ में 'पयामे मशरिक' नाम से दिया था. 'मैं और वह' की कविताओं को पढ़ते हुए उन्हें 'वेस्ट ईस्ट दीवान में' और 'पयामे मशरिक' की याद आती है.

दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के कॉलेज में अंग्रेजी की प्रोफेसर और हिंदी की प्रसिद्ध रचनाकार डॉ. अनामिका ने इन कविताओं पर बोलते हुए अंग्रेजी कवि जॉन डन को याद किया. 'शट थोर माउथ एंड लेट मी लव'. उन्होंने बताया कि इन कविताओं में प्रेम करता हुआ एक साथी स्त्री से बराबरी के धरातल पर संवाद करता है और राजनीति पर चर्चा करता है. इस अर्थ में ये कवितायें आश्चर्यजनक और रचनात्मक उम्मीद को पूर्ण बनाती हैं. जब दो लोग संवाद करें और संवाद का वाक्य कुछ इस तरह पूरा हो, जैसे दोनों का आधा-आधा वाक्य एक दूसरे



### हंगरी का चैन ब्रिज

में गुम्फित हो जाए, यह संवाद का सौन्दर्य है.

'मैं और वह' पुस्तक में हिंदी कविताओं का हंगेरियन भाषा में अनुवाद भी साथ-साथ मौजूद है. हंगेरियन भाषा में अनुवाद फेरेंसी रोलांद ने किया है. रोलांद तमिल संगम साहित्य में शोध-कार्यरत हैं. अनुवादक न केवल स्वयं कार्यक्रम में मौजूद रहे, बल्कि उन्होंने कविताओं का हंगेरियन भाषा में पाठ भी किया. इस दौरान रोलांद ने कहा कि 'मैं और वह' की ये कविताएं हमें अपने साथ एक यात्रा पर लिए चलती हैं. यात्रा जिसमें एक दुनिया है, जिसमें स्वयं हम हैं.

यात्रा के अंत में सबसे अहम है कि हम यह जान सकें कि 'मैं' कौन है और 'वह' कौन है।

उन्होंने कहा कि 'मैं और वह' पुस्तक को पढ़कर जाना जा सकता है कि उसमें कौसानी से जैसलमेर तक का भारत बुडापेस्ट के चेन ब्रिज की तरह ही है। कामायनी के श्रद्धा और मनु और हंगेरियन सिनेमा के बेला तार एक साथ इन कविताओं में दिख जाते हैं। दो संस्कृतियों के प्रतीक, मिथक, साहित्य सिनेमा को एक साथ रख देना कवि की भाषा, कौशल, विचार और दृष्टि का कमाल है। भारत और हंगरी दोनों देशों को भाषा और साहित्य के बहाने जानना और संवादों से गुजरते हुए प्रेम की अनुभूति से भरकर मुस्कुराने लगना, यह एक अद्भुत संयोग है।

उन्होंने बताया कि यह पुस्तक पहले २०१८ में हंगरी में अमृता शेरगिल सांस्कृतिक केंद्र, भारतीय दूतावास के द्वारा प्रकाशित हुई और अब २०१९ में भारत में पुनः नई किताब प्रकाशन, दिल्ली से हुआ। पुस्तक पर चर्चा के दौरान कार्यक्रम में दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के प्रोफेसर, विद्यार्थी और जामिया मिलिया इस्लामिया से उर्दू के प्रोफेसर डॉ खालिद जावेद और हिंदी के प्रोफेसर डॉ. नीरज कुमार और मुकेश कुमार और तुर्की के विद्वान डॉ. मोहसिन अली की मौजूदगी रही। हंगरी में कथक टीचर रही कलाकार सौम्या शुक्ला भी उपस्थित थीं। केन्द्रीय हिंदी संस्थान, आगरा से हिंदी की पढाई कर रही हंगेरियन छात्रा कोचेस पैत्रा विशेष रूप से इस कार्यक्रम में भागीदारी के लिए आयी थीं। ■

CULTURE

AMRITA SHERGIL CULTURAL CENTRE

Cultural Report for the quarter of April-June, 2019

Indian Film Club



Badrinath Ki Dulhania



Kabuliwala



Baadshaaho



Natir Puja

the film was beautifully rendered, everyone praised it a lot. In June only one film was screened because of the International Day of Yoga Festival: on 7 June, 2019 Meghe Dhaka Tara (1960) was screened. Attendance was good for all the films; approx. 30-50 people attended the events.

OCCASIONAL PROGRAMMES in ASCC



Meghe Dhaka Tara

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. In the April-June quarter the following films were screened: on 12 April, 2019 Badrinath Ki Dulhania (2017) and on 26 April, 2019 Baadshaaho (2017). On 10 May, 2019 Kabuliwala (1961) and on

17 May, 2019 Natir Puja – The court dancer (2016) by Karl Bardosh were screened. Both films have been chosen commemorating the birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. Natir Puja was a special occasion where the audience interacted with the director of the film. Hungarian connections with Tagore have been discovered talking to the audience. The Hungarian subtitles for

In April, May and June a lot of occasional programmes (concerts, performances, and workshops) were organized in ASCC. Also preparations for the International Day of Yoga began in these months. The first occasional programme in April was ICCR Foundation Day. On the occasion of ICCR Foundation Day, Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre of



**LEFT:** Dr Ferenc Ruzsa, Indologist, speaking. **CENTER:** Ms Kármén Kollár, ICCR student.  
**RIGHT:** Director Tanuja Shankar with Zsuzsanna Renner art historian & Ankita Sood Yoga teacher



**LEFT:** Ankita Sood interviewing Szabolcs Tóth Sitarist. **CENTER:** András Kozma Sitar artist speaking.  
**RIGHT:** Gabriella Tóth performing



**LEFT:** Sonali Roy and Shankari performing Kathak-Flamenco duett. **CENTER:** Szabolcs Tóth performing.  
**RIGHT:** ICCR students listening to the speeches

Embassy of India organized an event on 9 April, 2019 for ICCR Alumni members. The programme started with welcome speech given by Ms Tanuja Shankar, Director of Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre who spoke about The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) founded in 1950 by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and dwelt on the importance of strengthening cultural relations through cultural exchanges with other countries and people. She was followed by Mr T.P.S. Rawat who read out the message of H.E. Kumar Tuhin, Ambassador of India. A film titled Soft Power - Idea of India by ICCR was screened which was followed by the introduction of ICCR Alumni members. It was a very



Group photo

colourful and interesting programme where scholars, artists, professors from different fields of art and profession rendered account of their experiences talking about how the scholarship has affected their professional life and development.

The aim of the event was to create a common forum for those interested in learning in India and provide a possibility to develop the connections and spread the information related to the scholarships. The following alumni members spoke and performed on the occasion:

- Dr Gergely Hidas, Indologist, expert of Buddhism, teacher at ELTE University
- Prof. Gyula Wojtilla, M. A. Ph.D. Professor emeritus, University of Szeged, Honorary professor, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, expert of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archeology
- Mr Szabolcs Tóth, Sitar artist, teacher of ASCC
- Dr Beáta Kakas, Indologist, Lecturer at Dharma Gate Buddhist College, Budapest
- Ms Virág Túri, Odissi dancer, teacher of ASCC
- Dr Zsuzsanna Renner, Indologist, Art Historian
- Dr Ferenc Ruzsa, Indologist, expert of Classical Indian Philosophy, History of Buddhism, University teacher at ELTE University, Faculty of Humanities
- Mr András Kozma, Sitar artist, disciple of late Pt Ravi Shankar, member of Calcutta Trio group
- Dr Ágnes Pap, National Szechenyi Library, Deptt. of Information, Budapest, Budavár Palota, expert of Indian Religious History, History of Hinduism, Ancient Indian History
- Ms. Gabriella Tóth, Kuchipudi artist
- Dr Csaba Kiss, Indologist, teacher at ELTE University
- Ms Kassiyet Adilkhankhyzy, Bharatanatyam artist from

Kazakhstan

- Ms Kármén Kollár, Kathak student

**India Day**



Director ASCC and the Principal of Lauder School before the event



Yoga session for students led by Ankita Sood



Yoga session for students led by Ankita Sood



Group photo

On 10 April, 2019, Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre celebrated India Day at a popular Lauder School in Budapest to promote Indian Culture comprising classical Indian dance Kathak, Tabla and Yoga. The session was started by Director ASCC, Ms Tanuja Shankar who talked about the varied Indian culture and also showed a film on incredible India. Thereafter TIC from ASCC, Ms. Ankita Sood initiated the students in Yoga by playing games with them, and then doing an interactive session of Yoga. Ms. Sonali Roy and Mr. Chirayu Bhole presented an interesting segment on Kathak and tabla which the 12-13 year old students enjoyed immensely. The purpose of the India Day at Lauder School was to initiate the students into getting a glimpse of India through the performing arts and yoga. Director ASCC and the Principal of Lauder School had fruitful discussion on future cooperation between the centre and the school. The day was wrapped up by distributing T-shirts and token gifts to the students.

**12 April, 2019**

On 12 April, 2019, Kaposvár Rotary Club (President: Mr Géza Ladiszlai-Pfeiffer) & the Hungarian-Sri Lankan Friendship Society (President: Mr Wimal Morapitiye) organized an Indian gastronomy & business evening in Kaposvár Hotel. The event was attended by around 100 people. H.E. Kumar Tuhin, Ambassador of India also had been invited and spoke on the occasion. He emphasized the good



LEFT: Ambassador speaking on the occasion. RIGHT: Menu card with Indian items

Kalananda Dance Theatre led by Ms Panni Somi performed in Kunszentmiklós, representing Embassy of India at an Indian cultural programme of Kunszentmiklós organized by founder of Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Shambala Memorial Park and Community.

16 April, 2019



Director presenting gift to the artist



LEFT: Ambassador talking with VIP guests. RIGHT: Chirayu Bhole & Sonali Roy performing



LEFT: Dr Rajathesh performing  
RIGHT: Dr Rajeswari Chandraja



Indian presentation material

participated in the event.

13 April, 2019

On 13 April, 2019, Sivasakti



Sivasakti Kalananda Theatre performing



Group photo

On 16 April, 2019 Dr. Saraswathi Rajathesh (Kuchipudi) accompanied by Rajeshwari Chandraja (singer) from India performed in ASCC. Dr. Rajathesh is a renowned name as a

bilateral relations between India and Hungary, and mentioned the two special occasions which we commemorate this year: the 70th anniversary of Indo-Hungarian diplomatic relations and the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Ambassador mentioned that through these kinds of events the strength and culture of India may be brought to Hungary, and can be the means of strengthening the relations between the two countries. India-based artists of Embassy of India performed on the occasion and showcased a Jugalbandhi of Tabla and Kathak dance. Students of Kaposvár Music School also

dental doctor and natya guru who has completed 3 decades in the field of dance with enormous dedication and contribution. She has been trained under more than 20 gurus and teachers in her journey of dance. Senior Fellow of Dance research, ICCR and festival India empanelled from Ministry of Culture, A graded artist of Indian Broadcasting, Double Masters and pursuing PhD in dance. She travelled worldwide performed, trained many pupils and conducted events in India and abroad. Dr. Rajeswari Chandraja of Sriakulam (Andhra Pradesh, India) is a very popular singer both of the Classical and Popular Music streams. She has many laurels to her credit – titles like ‘Madhura Gayani’, ‘Sankeerthana Sudhanidhi’ and ‘Kala Saraswathi’ awarded by great personalities and organisations.

The performance started with a song-block where both classical and popular style of songs had been introduced by the singer. She was followed by a Kuchipudi performance by Dr. Rajathesh, who showcased typical pieces on the Indian classical dance form weaved around Krishna, the God. The performance was well-attended.

**16 April, 2019**



Ms Tanuja Shankar, Director ASCC, speaking to Director Mr Mihály Nagy



Opening speech



Ankita Sood holding class for children



Tabla & Kathak performance



Group photo

On Apr 16, 2019 India Day celebration was held at Grossich Gyula Sport School in Budapest where glimpses of India were shared by Madam Tanuja Shankar, ASCC Director; Ms Ankita Sood, yoga teacher; Ms Sonali Roy, kathak dance teacher and Mr Chirayu S. Bhole, tabla teacher. Mr Mihaly Kis, director of Grossich School, 7 school teachers and 160 students were participated wholeheartedly in the event.

**Yoga Festival**

His Excellency Ambassador of India in Hungary Shri Kumar Tuhin inaugurated the Yoga Festival Budapest at Akvarium Klub which was organized by Hungarian Yoga Teacher's Association and Bhaktivedanta College in Budapest. Ms Ankita Sood, Yoga and Lifestyle Expert conducted a Special Yoga Session on Pancha Koshas from Upanishads and



Ambassador speaking on the occasion



Ambassador and Ankita Sood



Ankita Sood holding a yoga session for children



Ankita Sood holding class to yoga audience

shared the yogic techniques to manage Stress in today's world. Hundreds of Yoga Enthusiasts attended this session to learn from the authentic source from India on this very special occasion. IDY 2019 were also announced by Ambassador to the Yoga lovers.

**30 April, 2019**

India Day was held at ISB School, Budapest on April 30 by ASCC. In this event, the Principal Mr. John Hart of



Principal Mr. John Hart of ISB School, the Vice-Principal Ms. Dhanya Seshan and Ankita Sood



Ankita Sood holding yoga session



Kathak & Tabla performance by Sonali Roy & Chirayu Bhole



Ankita Sood holding yoga class

ISB School, the Vice-Principal Ms. Dhanya Seshan as well as 140 students participated where TIC ASCC Ms Ankita Sood demonstrated YOGA and also had an interactive session with the students through entertaining demos and games. Sonali Roy and Chirayu Bhole conducted an interactive session of Kathak and Tabla where even the students participated and performed.

Embassy of India, Hungary

14 May 2019



Andras Kozma, Peter Szalai & Andras Molnar of Calcutta Trio performing at ASCC



Artists of Calcutta Trio at ASCC



On 14 May all Hungarian lovers of classical Indian music enjoyed performance of the unique Hungarian music group: Calcutta Trio. The Trio was founded in 1976 and was established with the aim to make Indian classical music known and popular, played authentically by non-Indians and up until today – not counting their Indian and other foreign performances – held more than 3.000 concerts and lectures in Hungary. The efforts of the trio led to establishing the first RIMPA (Ravi Shankar Institute for Music and Performing Arts) branch in Budapest, where they teach classical Indian music and work on propagating classical Indian art, as well as produce Indian performances in the region. Since 1979 a weekly Indian Music Club has been existing in Budapest, the only and very

first of its type in the continent, where programs, lectures and performances are granted by the Trio.

The musicians played a long evening Raga for the audience and in the end answered the questions of people.

17 May, 2019



Filmmaker Karl Bardosh talking about his film, 'Natir Puja'



Audience interacting on the film



Prof Imre Lazar interacting on the film



Audience at the film screening of 'Natir Puja' at ASCC



Clip from the film ' Natir Puja'

On 17 May, 2019 we commemorated the birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore with a special programme. The film essay of Karl Bardosh film director titled Natir Puja—the court dancer (2016) was screened in ASCC. Professor Karl Bardosh, Hungarian-born American academic and filmmaker, has brought alive the film that was destroyed in a 1933 fire in the warehouse of New Theatres, Calcutta. 'Natir Puja – The Court Dancer' is based on a dance drama composed by Tagore. „As a researcher my interest in Tagore goes back a long, long way. I have always wanted to make a film inspired by his work,” says the professor. Filmed in 3D by Dutch cinematographer Leonard Retel Helmrich, who devised the innovative “single shot cinema” technique, “Natir Puja – The Court Dancer” features Sujata Awon Pradhan’s Kolkata-based dance group Nrityalok. On the film’s soundtrack is the voice of noted Rabindrasangeet exponent Jayati Chakraborty.

“Natir Puja – The Court Dancer” had its world premiere in 2016 at the New York Indian Film Festival before making the trip to the Cannes Film Festival. During his research, he stumbled upon the story of the lost film made by the great Bengali poet and decided to retrieve it from the cobwebs of time.

In the end of the programme Prof. Bardosh replied questions. We have received very interesting additional information about the Hungarian relation to Tagore and his family from members of the audience.

26 May 2019

Embassy of India in contribution with the International Children’s Safety Service Foundation organized a programme within the frame of the annual Children’s Day on 26 May 2019 as a part of the Boulevard of Nations in the City Park of Budapest. The programme contained several kinds of activities which were specially organized for children. Embassy of India had two tents in the Boulevard of Nations with tables and

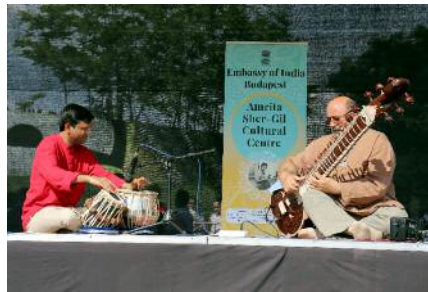


Tabla & Sitar by Chirayu Bhole and Gyorgy Molnar



Hungarian women learning to wear Sari



Gabriella Toth presenting Kuchipudi dance



Children playing carrom



Bharatnatyam performance by Panni Somi’s team



Children enjoying henna painting



A lady with her grandson in an Indian 'Pagdi'



Children participating in Yoga games

chairs where children played and spent time with their parents. Performance-cum-workshops by Hungarian (Ms Gabriella Tóth, Ms Panni Somi & Ms Virág Réka Túri with their students) and India-based artists (Mr Chirayu Bhole &





**LEFT:** Children enjoying art and craft at the India pavilion. **CENTER:** Chirayu Bhole taking 'Talanjali' workshop. **RIGHT:** Renowned danceuse Prof Alekhya Punjala performing at ASCC



**LEFT:** Children enjoying craftwork at the Varosliget Park. **CENTER:** Audience at 'Talanjali' workshop on Tabla. **RIGHT:** H.E Sri Kumar Tuhin getting felicitated by Alekhya Punjala with a silk shawl



were organized to showcase a glimpse of Indian culture to people. Embassy also arranged Indian mandalacoloring workshop and henna painting for children with the help of volunteers. Interactive quiz games were led by Melinda Irtl. Besides the cultural programmes children played with board games such as chess, carrom board and also there were interactive games organized such as drawing, colouring, bead weaving etc.

lecture and demonstration as well, and participants had the opportunity to try the instruments themselves. A live Jugalbandhi with kathak dancer was also showcased. The programme concluded with small reception.

**31 May, 2019**

On 31 May, 2019, Chirayu Bhole, India-based teacher of ASCC held a workshop on Indian percussion instruments. The workshop was organized in the auditorium of ASCC, and approximately 25 people attended the event. The programme consisted of

**4 June, 2019**



**Prof. Alekhya Punjala and her group performing at ASCC**



**Performers with Ambassador after the programme**

On 4 June, 2019, Dr Alekhya Punjala performed in ASCC. The performance titled "Abhinaya Tapasvini" was a beautiful combination of lecture and demonstration by the famous Alekhya Punjala who is the guru of Ms Gabriella Tóth, Hungarian representative of Kuchipudi dance. Born on 9 April 1962 in Hyderabad, Alekhya Punjala took her initial training in dance under Guru Dayal Sharan. Later, she trained in Kuchipudi Dance and Bharatanatyam under Uma Rama Rao, and received intensive training in Abhinaya under Guru Pasumarthy Krishnamurthy. Over the past three decades she has established herself as an outstanding performer of Kuchipudi Dance, as well as a dedicated teacher and researcher in the field. As a Professor and Head of



**Chirayu Bhole and Karmen Kolar at 'Talanjali' workshop**



**Gabriella Toth performing Kuchipudi at ASCC**

the Department of Dance at Potti Sri Ramulu Telugu University, Hyderabad, she has trained several batches of students for the Master's Degree in Kuchipudi Dance and for the university's Ph.D. Programme in the last two decades. At present she works as the Registrar and Dean of Telugu University. She imparts training in Kuchipudi Dance to young and upcoming artists at her own institution, called Trishna. She holds a Ph.D. for her study of Kshetravaya Padams and their importance in Abhinaya in Kuchipudi Dance. Besides performing at prestigious events of art both at national and international levels, she has presented papers at various seminars. She has also conducted lecture cum demonstrations on Kuchipudi Dance. Shrimati Alekhya Punjala has received several honours including the Ugadi Visishta Puraskarin 2002, the Hamsa Award and the Prathiba Rajiv Puraskar in 2009 conferred by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, Abhinaya Tapasvini title awarded by the Sahitya Peetham, Rajamundry and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for Kuchipudi in 2011.

**6 June, 2019**



Students getting certificates



Audience enjoying the comic play presented by students of Hindi



Ambassador being welcomed by HOD-Hindi, Maria Negyesi



Students performing



Chirayu Bhole & Balasz Viragh performing



Director ASCC welcoming the guests

On 6 June, 2019, Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre in collaboration with Indology Department, ELTE



Scene from the play 'Aqlamund Naukar' by Asgar Wajahat



University, organized the Closing Ceremony of Hindi classes and Orientation Courses. The programme started with the welcome speech of Ambassador, H.E. Kumar Tuhin. He was followed by Director of ASCC, Ms Tanuja Shankar and Dr Mária Négyesi, who greeted the audience and summarized last year's events emphasizing the importance of Hindi language and the enthusiastic approach of Hungarian students. The programme consisted of cultural performances as well: students showcased a Hindi language Natak (play) and Ms Gabriella Tóth performed Kuchipudi dance. Mr Chirayu Bhole, Tabla artist of ASCC performed with Mr Balázs Virágh, Pakhawaj player. Certificates and gift items were presented to best students. The programme ended with dinner provided by Rajkot Palace Indian restaurant.

**11 June, 2019**

On 11 June, 2019 V. Lakshmidhevi from India performed in ASCC. The dancer held a performance on polarities

22 June, 2019



V Laxmidevi performing



Brigetta Hegedus & Revathy Dance Academy



Night of Museum at Ferenc Hopp Museum



Laxmi Devi taking workshop



Children at Ferenc Hopp Museum



Neethu Mohan and Kavya Francis presenting Bharatanatyam



Laxmidevi with Director-ASCC, Tanuja Shankar



Audience at Ferenc Hopp Museum

of the world, explaining with gestures and movements of Bharatanatyam pieces the way of life, and how the polarities co-exist in everything in the world. The performance was an attempt to exhibit the diverse nature and emotions of different characters whom people become in day to day life, demonstrating the Navarasas. The performance concluded with a short workshop with games and people were taught some basic steps as well.

On 22 June, 2019 Indian Embassy & Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre participated in Night of Museums programme in Ferenc Hopp Museum. The museum is celebrating 100th anniversary of its foundation this year; on this occasion, in cooperation with the Asian partner institutions, colorful programmes had been organized. As part of the programme, Brigitta

Hegedus and Revathy Dance Academy performed a dance-compilation commemorating Mahatma Gandhi. Also Ms Neethu & Ms Kavya enchanted the audience with their Bharatanatyam dance. There were Saree Corner and henna painting in the garden. Mr Masala Restaurant provided Indian food.

**Gandhi@150 Cycling Rally**

On the occasion of the Gandhi Memorial Year & World Cycle Day (3 June), Embassy of India participated in a bicycle event organized by Budapest to celebrate Mahatma Gandhi on two wheels. I bike Budapest is a celebration for all those who ride a bike in the city, and also a demonstration for a bicycle-friendly, liveable city for all. On the occasion of this event cyclists dress up in a costume, bring their family, play an instrument, sing along, dance, make friends, and have fun together. Embassy of India joined the event, celebrating the



People from Indian diaspora with H. E Sri Kumar Tuhin & the staff of Embassy



**LEFT:** Live Kathak dance near Chain Bridge during the Rally. **RIGHT:** An enthusiastic Cyclist



Cyclists rejoicing after completion of the 25 kms Rally

150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Caps and T-shirts with Gandhi ji's pictures and wrists bands were

distributed to all. There was also a spectacular kathak performance by Sonali Roy, Chirayu Bhole & their group

near Chain Bridge. The Indian bicycle team cycled till the last point of the event where bike lifting finished the process. ■

# International Yoga Day & My Contribution

## What does Yoga mean to you?

For me, Yoga is synonymous for peace and health.

## How much do you think Yoga can help solve physical and mental issues in this age?

Yoga can really help a lot in solving physical and mental problems. Especially mental. Since we live fast way of life, yoga can help us find balance and make it easier to solve everyday situations.

## Int Day Of Yoga has been accepted by UN and 177 countries follow it. How do you think you as



Ms. Rajiza Mujanovic

## an Ambassador can contribute towards it?

I set my name and reputation on the International Day of Yoga. I want to bring yoga to people in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Every year yoga becomes more and more popular in our society.

## What is your message towards the younger generation as well as other Yoga enthusiasts?

I invite young people to do sports or yoga. Healthy way of life is very important. Sometimes it takes only half an hour to do yoga and feel comfortable all day. ■

## My Experience of IDY 2019

**D**uring my University break this summer, I was lucky enough to volunteer& workat the Cultural centre of the Embassy of India in Hungary which was undoubtedly an immense learning experience for me. My primary objective was to assist in any way possible with the International Day of Yoga which was a huge responsibility for me as I had never been part of such a vast event before. As the International Day of Yoga was spread across multiple cities in Hungary and Bosnia, it was quite a logistical challenge to make sure that everything went as planned. My initial task was to prepare scripts for the Budapest and BiH events which then led me to take up other diverse tasks such as arranging promotional materials and equipment, delivering posters to various establishments, contacting and managing volunteers, designing brochures and promoting the event amongst local communities. Despite the demanding and repetitive nature of the work that I was tasked with, especially during the final week before the international Day of Yoga, it was rewarding and satisfying to watch the events in Budapest, Pecs and Szeged exceed our expectations and go as planned, without any hiccups. It was great to see the enthusiasm and the coordination between the different departments and how everyone's hard work paid off in the end. One other aspect that I admired greatly was His Excellency the Ambassador's personal interest in the cultural events and his active participation in the common yoga protocol.

The three major skills that I picked up during my experience at the embassy weremultitasking, perseverance and teamwork. Working on the IDY helped me realize that these set of skills

are essential in an environment that involves interacting with people and organizing large events. I was also made aware of the myriads of small hinderances and obstacles that can occur during event management and how effective planning and distribution of tasks can help mitigate such problems to some extent. It also reinstated in me, a sense of responsibility towards my work and it felt great to contribute towards the awareness of the cultural heritage of my country. As an Indian living abroad for more than 5 years now, it was refreshing to work in an environment that reminded me of home, despite living in a country with not a very sizable Indian population. Seeing so many Hungarians adopt and continue the traditional art forms of India was awe-inspiring and made me realize the rising global influence of Indian culture in today's world and the significance of the blossoming Indo-Hungarian relationship.

I wish to acknowledge how accommodating and helpful the staff of the Cultural Centre was towards me and how they guided me throughout my time at the embassy. Most importantly, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Miss Tanuja Shankar, Director of the Cultural Centre, for giving me this wonderful opportunity to work at the embassy and for all the professional guidance and personal support. It truly was an immense learning experience which will last long in my memories. ■



—Kevin Francis

# LAVENDER WEEKS IN TIHANY



**T**ihany's lavender field, situated on the Tihany-peninsula, is Hungary's first industrial lavender plantation, thanks to which lavender has become a dominant symbol for the town of Tihany itself and for the peninsula as well. To make it clear, the Tihany-peninsula is the great isle of Lake Balaton, stretching from the northern coast into the lake. It is one of the most varied and attractive places in Hungary, so the first landscape protection area was established here.

In the mid 1920's, Gyula Bittera, a renowned herbalist of his age, set the first lavender plantation in Tihany. He had brought the plants straight from France, and his skills were proved by the fact, that the essential oil content of the lavender, reaped in Tihany, was higher, than of the French. The success of Tihany lavender is also indicated by the fact, that it was even present on the stock exchange in certain times.

Lavender has practically no pest in the country, so no chemical is needed in the area. Its only enemy is weed, against what specialists defend on the one hand by mowing, and on the other hand by using sheep. A single bush can yield continuously rich crop even for ten successive years. In Tihany we can meet this popular

plant not only on the field, but also between the houses, as spectacular decor of the gardens and the streets. As dry flower it can be used against moths, and as oil it has perfect anti-inflammatory and sedative effects. Lavender is widely used in folk medicine, in soap making and in natural healing, which is becoming increasingly popular nowadays.

On the turn of June and July, blooming lavender plantation is a special sight on the coast of Lake Balaton. According to locals, Tihany's inner island turns into a butterfly-valley around this part of the year. At the time of flowering, walking tours start, guided by professionals, to view the Lavender field on the Tihany-peninsula. As mentioned, lavender plays an important and prominent role in Tihany's life, of which growing and utilization have long tradition. In honor of this noble plant, Lavender Festival is organized annually on the shore of the inner lake, which also offers the opportunity for local amateur art groups to perform. A significant role is played by the folk fair and the handicrafts playhouse, where visitors can learn the different ways of processing lavender. Lavender-lovers can even harvest the beloved plant in the National Park's "Take it Yourself!" initiative (up to stock).

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