

AMRIT

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Alluring India Fashion Show



आर्य

Gandhi@150

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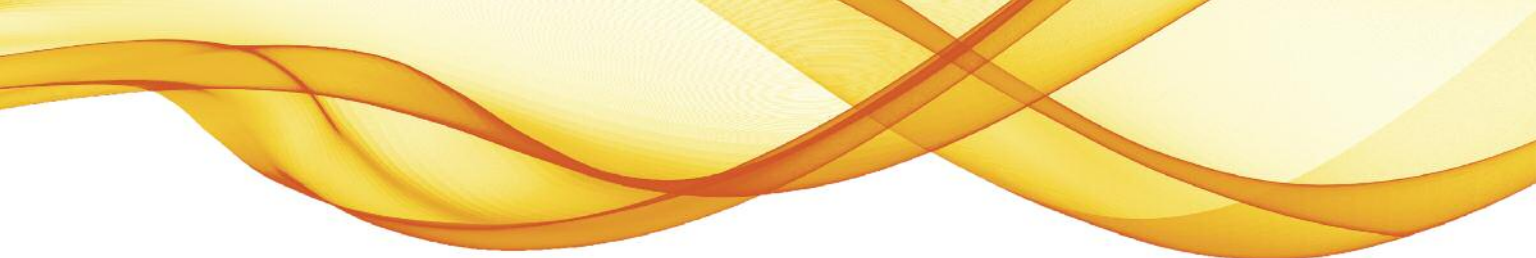
From Editor-in-Chief's Desk



Last few months saw hectic engagements for our Embassy in Budapest. There were visits at ministerial and official levels, and a series of events organized in political, economic and cultural spheres. The pace was a bit strenuous for our staff but still very satisfying as we all could see bilateral interactions further develop and grow as a result of our efforts.

External Affairs Minister of India Dr. S. Jaishankar paid a historic visit to Hungary in August 2019, his first visit after assuming office. The visit was important in many ways; also because it was the first high level interaction between the two countries after May 2019 general elections in India. That the visit to Hungary took place within a few months of the new government taking office in India was a clear reaffirmation of the importance that India attaches to Hungary. Shared interests and congruence in our positions on a wide range of issues were clearly brought out by both sides during the discussions. The External Affairs Minister also addressed the annual conference of Hungary's ambassadors giving them an Indian perspective on current global political and economic developments. He, inter alia, spoke about the trend of increasing multi polarity in the backdrop of decreasing multilateralism, of fungible alliances built on a convergence of interests, and the importance of the Indo-pacific landscape.

External Affairs Minister has since delivered the landmark 4th Ramnath Goenka Lecture on November 14 providing a broad overview of Indian foreign policy, which is a must read for anyone interested in Indian diplomacy. As India acquires an increasingly bigger and more important profile on the world stage, the interest in India's positions on various topics and how it is going to look at new and emerging issues is also on the rise.



For example, water is perhaps going to emerge very soon as the most important natural resource for us. Realising its critical nature, the government of India has created a new ministry of Jal Shakti (water resources) which brings together various aspects of water resource management hitherto looked after by multiple ministries. The interest in how India is going to handle the matter of water was evident during the Budapest Water Summit in October 2019. Our Minister of Jal Shakti Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat participated in the Summit and also addressed a joint press conference with H.E. President János Áder providing details of India's policy outlook and various initiatives. Hungarian companies have competences in this area and we hope to create a few mutually beneficial partnerships. We need to ensure not only availability of this precious natural resource for all our citizens now but also for generations to come.

Sustainable clothing and Khadi was one of the themes of the 'Alluring India' fashion event that we organized. This was as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, whose 150th birth anniversary was celebrated on October 2nd this year. We have been organizing a series of events during the entire anniversary year, trying to capture as many aspects of his life and thoughts as possible. And, in the same spirit we organized an Ayurveda seminar in November to highlight and popularize this ageless knowledge of natural healing.

The year 2019 will soon come to a close. As I sign off, let me wish you all a very happy new year in advance.

Kumar Tubin
Ambassador
Embassy of India, Hungary

External Affairs Minister of India Visits Hungary



Hon'ble External Affairs Minister of India, Mr. S. Jaishankar arrives in Hungary for a 3 day visit

Hon'ble External Affairs Minister Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar visited Hungary from 25-27 August 2019. This was External Affairs Minister's first visit to Hungary after assuming office. During his visit, External Affairs Minister held discussions with Hungary's Foreign Minister H.E. Mr. Peter Szijjarto on a wide range of bilateral and multilateral issues including on cooperation with the Visegrad Group. The two Ministers signed a Cultural Exchange Programme between India and Hungary for the period 2019-22. The Hungarian side announced their decision to join the International Solar Alliance, an organization established to harness the solar energy for the benefit of member nations and headquartered in India. Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto inter alia mentioned that the Hungarian side will focus on five main areas of film production, digitalization, water management, solar energy and pharmaceuticals for strengthening cooperation with India. The External Affairs Minister noted with satisfaction the positive trend of Indian investment in Hungary and its favourable business environment and competitiveness. The two Ministers agreed to also intensify bilateral interaction in the fields of education, tourism and science.

The External Affairs had meetings with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Mr. Mihaly Varga and Chairman of Hungary-India Parliamentary Friendship



EAM S. Jaishankar and Foreign Minister of Hungary, Mr. Peter Szijjarto sign the Cultural Exchange Programme between the two countries

Group Mr. Peter Cseresnyes. During these meetings, a range of issues of interest were discussed including parliamentary exchanges and other high-level contacts, as also people-to-people ties.

The External Affairs Minister addressed the annual conference of Hungary's Heads of Missions on August 26, 2019. He was invited by Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto to speak at the opening session of the conference as Chief Guest. This was a special honour bestowed upon External



LEFT: EAM meets the Dy. Prime Minister & Minister of Finance, Mr. Mihaly Varga. **RIGHT:** EAM inaugurates the photo exhibition at Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre based on bilateral relations between the countries

Affairs Minister by the Hungarian side.

The External Affairs Minister also inaugurated a photo exhibition at the Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre at the Embassy of India on August 26. The photo exhibition commemorating 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Hungary showcased several historical photographs. The Ambassador of India hosted a Reception in honour of External Affairs Minister which was attended by several dignitaries including Members of Parliament, senior government officials, business leaders and friends of India. ■



Budapest Water Summit 2019

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister of Jal Shakti, visited Budapest on October 14-17, 2019 at the invitation of the Hungarian side. He participated in the Budapest Water Summit 2019 and delivered a keynote speech at the Inaugural Session of the Summit. He also addressed a Press Conference with the President of Hungary.

Minister had very fruitful interactions with H.E. Mr. János Áder, President of Hungary as well as with Minister of Agriculture Dr. István Nagy, Minister of Interior Mr. Sándor Pintér and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Mr. Peter



Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti H.E. Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat was received by H.E. Mr Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade



LEFT: Ambassador H.E. Dr. István Nagy, Minister of Agriculture of Hungary received Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti H.E. Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat at the Ministry of Agriculture. **RIGHT:** The Indian delegation visited the Hungarian Water Technology Corporation, Hidrofilt Water Treatment Ltd. in the city of Érd to understand their technology of drinking water purification



The Indian delegation led by Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti H.E. Mr. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, which participated at the Budapest Water Summit 2019: (L-R) Mr. Akhil Kumar, JS; Mr. Kumar Tuhin, Ambassador of India; Mr. A. Muralidharan, Deputy Adviser; Mr. Bharat Lal, AS; H.E. Mr. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister of Jal Shakti, Mr. Rajnish Dev Burman, PS to Minister; Mr. Vimal Chander, Chief (PR) WAPCOS; Mr. Sanjeev Manchanda, SS (Pol & Com), Embassy of India and Ms. Szilvia Horváth, Bilateral Referent, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary

Szijjarto. The discussions during these meetings focussed on strengthening cooperation in areas pertaining to water management, waste-water treatment, technologies and new inventions pertaining to the areas of water and its ancillary matters. India and Hungary had signed an MOU on water management in 2013. ■



The Indian delegation visited the city of Szentendre, where they were received by H.E. Mr. Zsolt Fülöp, Mayor and were shown a demonstration of the mobile flood control wall to see the technology used to prevent floods

In mourning for Smt. Sushma Swaraj, former External Affairs Minister



LEFT: Condolence Book at the Embassy. **RIGHT:** Ambassador delivering a brief eulogy

The Embassy joined Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and other resident Diplomatic Missions in Budapest to condole the death of former External Affairs Minister of India, Smt. Sushma Swaraj. A Condolence Book was opened in the Embassy. Ambassador Shri Kumar

Tuhin shared some interesting anecdotes of excellence brought in the work sphere by Smt. Swaraj. Officers and other members of the Mission also paid their respects to the venerable soul. Smt. Swaraj took the working of the Ministry to newer heights, which would be difficult to emulate. ■

Celebrating the Independence Day of India



LEFT: Ambassador leading the rendition of the National Anthem. **RIGHT:** Ambassador giving his speech on the auspicious occasion



The 73rd Independence Day of India was celebrated with great fervour and exuberance by the Embassy of India in Hungary with the members of the local Indian community and friends of India attending the ceremony. The programme started with the flag hoisting done by H. E. Sri Kumar Tuhin, followed by singing of the National Anthem. This was followed by a lively, specially curated patriotic cultural programme by the members of the Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre and performed by the teachers and students. The first presentation was a medley of old patriotic songs rendered by children from the Yoga and Kathak batches of ASCC accompanied by



LEFT: Cultural programme. **RIGHT:** Members of the Mission and guests of the Embassy attending the celebration

their mothers. It was arranged by Sri Chirayu Bhole, Tabla faculty. This was followed by a melodious instrumental ensemble curated and composed by Sri Chirayu Bhole from choicest patriotic songs from Bollywood, played by Szabolcs Tóth on Sitar, Zoltán Lantos

on violin, Chirayu Bhole on Tabla, Katalin Burns on Flute and Balázs Virágh on Pakhawaj. The song was given a special touch through a mesmerizing Kathak performance by Sonali Roy. The day concluded with Indian snacks for all. ■

Sadbhavna Pledge



Ambassador Shri Kumar Tuhin administered the Sadbhavna Pledge to all India based officials of the Embassy. Since 20 August was a closed holiday for the Embassy, the Pledge was administered on 19 August. ■

Ambassador administering the Pledge for all India based officials

Meeting with State Secretary Sándor Farkas

Ambassador Shri Kumar Tuhin called on Mr. Sándor Farkas, Deputy Minister and State Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture on 21 August to discuss matters of mutual interest and explore possible avenues to expand bilateral relations between India and Hungary in the field of agriculture, sustainability, water management, etc.

Ambassador and State Secretary Mr. Sándor Fazekas exchanging the handshake of cooperation



Economic round table event on the occasion of the visit of WAPCOS delegation

Harnessing the opportunities present in the sectors of water, power, infrastructure, engineering procurement consultancy, telecom, digital identity and digital payments, Embassy organized an economic round table and a networking event at hotel Four Seasons Gresham Palace on September 12, 2019. Delegations from WAPCOS Ltd, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), Telecom Dispute Settlement Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT), Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and International Telecom Union (ITU) participated in the event. The Chief Guest of the occasion was H.E. Dr. András Baranyi, Deputy State Secretary for Eastern Relations in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary. Speaking at the event Ambassador of India, H.E. Mr. Kumar Tuhin invited companies from both sides to explore possible areas of economic cooperation. Dr. Baranyi appreciated the initiative of the Embassy in organizing an event focused on economic cooperation. CMD Wapcos, Mr. R.K. Gupta gave a presentation on the activities of the company, and also signed an MOU with Budapest



Ambassador Kumar Tuhin speaking at the event

Waterworks. Chairman TRAI, Dr. R.S. Sharma gave an engaging presentation on India's seminal work in the giving digital identity to nearly 1.2 billion people and explained the efforts of the Government of India in providing affordable digital payment options. ■

Visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina— Presentation of Credentials

Ambassador Kumar Tuhin presented his credentials to the Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, H.E. Mr. Željko Komšić on September 18, 2019. Thus Ambassador took office as the Ambassador of India to Bosnia and Herzegovina residing in Hungary and consequently strengthening India's partnership with the government and the people of the country as well.

During his visit to the capital of BiH, Sarajevo, Ambassador Shri Kumar Tuhin met with several high-ranking members of the Bosnian government to engage in the development of bilateral relations



Ambassador Kumar Tuhin presenting his Credentials to the Chairman of the Presidency of BiH



LEFT: Ambassador Tuhin, his spouse, Mrs. Deepa and Mr. Sanjeev Manchanda, Second Secretary received by the Chairman of the Presidency of BiH. **RIGHT:** Ambassador Tuhin in discussion with the Chairman of the Presidency



LEFT: Ambassador greeted by the Deputy Mayor of Sarajevo. **RIGHT:** Ambassador and H.E Mr. Milorad Dodik, Serb member of the Presidency

between the two nations.

First, he met with Mr. Milan Trivić, Deputy Mayor of Sarajevo on September 19. During the meeting they exchanged their views on topics of mutual interest and discussed the continuation of cooperation in the future.

Then Ambassador paid a courtesy call on H.E Mr. Milorad Dodik, Serb member of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina on 20 September, 2019.

And finally, Ambassador met with Mr. Branko Petric, President of the Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina and exchanged views on matters of mutual interest. Election Commission of India and BiH Central Election Commission have ongoing framework of cooperation under an MoU signed in 2017. ■



In meeting with Mr. Branko Petric,
President of the Central Election Commission

Visit of delegation from Army War College



Members of the delegation called on Ambassador at the Embassy.
Mr. Sanjeev Manchanda, Second Secretary also attended the meeting



LEFT: Leader of the delegation, Major General B S Dhanoa presenting a token of appreciation to State Secretary István Szabó. **RIGHT:** Ambassador speaking at the Seminar of Defence Cooperation



On their official visit to Hungary, the delegation from Army War College, Mhow, Madhya Pradesh called upon Ambassador Kumar Tuhin on 24 September. Defence cooperation between the two countries has been a stable element of bilateral cooperation.

Major General B S Dhanoa, accompanied by Ambassador Shri Kumar Tuhin met with Mr. István Szabó, State Secretary in Ministry of Defence of Hungary on September 24. A 15-member delegation from Army War College, Mhow, Madhya Pradesh led by Major General Dhanoa visited Hungary on a study tour at the invitation of

the Government of Hungary. The visit is likely to further strengthen bilateral defence cooperation between the two countries.

The Embassy organized an India-Hungary Seminar on Defence Cooperation in Budapest on September 24, 2019. The objective of the event, inter alia, was to explore partnerships with the Hungarian defense industry association in wide-ranging areas of defense cooperation. The delegation from India led by Major General B.S. Dhanoa and comprised of 15-members from Army War College, Mhow, Madhya Pradesh were on a study tour in Hungary. Dr. Norbert Révai-Bere, Director General of

Department of Fastest Growing Economies of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade also attended the event. From the Hungarian side, representatives of the Ministry of Defence, the Defence Industry Association as well as several companies, including Col Zoltán Völgyi, Deputy Head of Department of International Cooperation of Ministry of

Defence of Hungary, Col Tibor Jancsek, Directorate for Planning, Hungarian Defence Command and Mr. Attila Zsitnyányi, President of Defence Industry Association of Hungary were also present. Mr. Tribhuvan Darbari, MD of Texmaco Defence Systems Pvt Ltd from India also attended. ■

Celebrating ITEC day

The Embassy organized a conference-cum-reception to celebration ITEC day on September 27 in Budapest. Speaking at the event, Ambassador of India, H.E. Mr. Kumar Tuhin underlined the contribution of ITEC in empowering a large number of trainees coming from distant corners of the globe, developing human resources and building bridges of friendship and camaraderie.

Dr. Ádám Imre Szűcs, Head of Department of Public Diplomacy dealing with bilateral educational exchange program, spoke at the event representing State Secretary, Dr. Orsolya Pacsay-Tomassich. Mr. Sanjeev Manchanda, Second Secretary from the Embassy gave a presentation on the ITEC program, which was followed by sharing of experiences by students who had been to India on ITEC scholarships. The Tempus Foundation also gave a presentation on the Alumni network. ■



Ambassador greeting the guests at the ITEC day celebration

New Student's Orientation Day



LEFT: Ambassador in discussion with Indian students pursuing their studies in Hungary. **RIGHT:** Ambassador and Mr. Sanjeev Manchanda, Second Secretary with members of the Indian students' community in Hungary



Embassy also organized a New Student's Orientation Day along with the ITEC Day on September 27, 2019. Ambassador encouraged Indian students to utilize the opportunity presented by Hungarian scholarship scheme and build bridges between people of the two countries, since students are also the goodwill ambassadors of India in their

respective Universities. Ambassador further encouraged them to be in close touch with the Embassy for any assistance they might need. Indian student community is now a significant part of the Indian diaspora in Hungary. Its members exuded a lot of camaraderie in their interactions and welcomed the Mission's initiative to organize the event, which was attended by around 100 Indian students. ■

Transformational Leadership of Mahatma Gandhi and its Relevance

By Dr. Shobhana Radhakrishna

On Gandhi Jayanti and UN International day of Non-Violence, the Embassy of India in Hungary organized a series of lectures on Mahatma Gandhi in Budapest on 4th and 5th October 2019 by Dr Shobhana Radhakrishna, Eminent Gandhian. This is part of the commemorative events during the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. H.E. Ambassador of India, Shri Kumar Tuhin provided guidance and support.

Mahatma Gandhi is the most well-known Indian in the world. His life was one of dedication and simplicity, and he valued non-violence, peace, truth, and purity of means as the guiding principles of his life. He followed the inner voice that guided him throughout his life, and he could justifiably say to the world that 'My Life is My Message'. Mahatma Gandhi displayed the ability to lift the question of morals from that of the personal and transform it into a problem that reflects and impacts the ethics of all of humanity.

There are few among the 20th-century leaders who can measure up to the standards set by Mahatma Gandhi in the practice of ethical leadership. Mahatma Gandhi proved that moral and ethical behaviour is inexorably linked to the genuine understanding and method of the philosophy of truth, non-violence, and purity of means. Mahatma Gandhi's thought and principles can guide the people in any part of the world as it has the strength to inspire and bring about change. The value-based leadership espoused by Mahatma Gandhi in public life is a perfect model to be emulated in all spheres of our activities. He is a supreme practical leader for change whose life can inspire and guide the modern and aspiring youth in building and leading an ethical and sustainable ecology.

The first lecture was on the 'Leadership of Mahatma Gandhi covering the life of action, purity and self-reliance organized by the Central European University, Budapest. The talk was coordinated by Dr Sanjay Kumar. The second lecture was based on the 'Environmental Credo of Mahatma Gandhi' at ELTE University, Budapest which was coordinated by Dr



Dr. Radhakrishna delivering a series of lectures in Budapest on occasion of Gandhi@150 celebrations

Mate Itzes, HOD, Department of Indology. The focus was on the life of simplicity, voluntary self-control, purity of means, living in harmony with nature and use of local resources in the nonviolent face to face community living in the Ashrams established by Mahatma Gandhi.

The third lecture on Mahatma Gandhi's Environmental Credo at the Bhakti Vedanta College, Budapest coordinated by Mr. Tasi Iastvan and interpreted by Mr. Matyas Mero. The talk focused on the environment philosophy based on the Vedantic principles of spirituality.

The fourth lecture was at the Amrita Sher Gil Cultural Centre on the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi' at the Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre, Embassy of India, Budapest and coordinated by Smt. Tanuja Shankar, Director & First Secretary, ASCC of the Embassy of India. H.E. Ambassador of India, Shri Kumar Tuhin in his address referred to Gandhian principles of Truth, Nonviolence and purity of means. The talks provided lessons gleaned from Mahatma Gandhi's life, offer us invaluable advice on leading an enlightened life-a more meaningful, self-aware, socially responsible and saner life. ■

—The author is Chief Functionary, Gandhian Forum for Ethical Corporate Governance, India

Overcoming Violence—the Teachings of Mahatma Gandhi

By Dr. Anna Aklan

Most Hungarians know Mahatma Gandhi, the leader of the Indian independence movement, the Father of India. But their knowledge about him is limited and even that is shrinking. While for the generations of our grandparents he was a contemporary hero who regularly appeared in the news, and the generation of our parents learnt about him at school, his memory is fading away from contemporary Hungarian remembrance.

We must strive, however, to keep his memory alive, to find inspiration in his actions and in his teachings, especially because what he represents should be the most important imperative in all aspects of human life, personal, social and political: *Do not harm. He is not the first one to expound this teaching: "I have nothing new to teach the world. Truth and nonviolence are as old as the hills."* This teaching of causing no harm appeared in India more than two millennia ago as the concept of *ahimsā*. Philosophers, gurus, yogis have been teaching and practicing its meaning. The concept of doing no harm to others was known in the European tradition, too—its most significant teacher was Jesus Christ, who instructed his followers: *"Turn the other cheek."*

So the teaching is not new – but it is easier said than done. Our inborn fallibility and our natural impulses make us prone to act upon the spur of the moment, giving in to our emotions and gut reactions. It requires awareness and consciousness to keep to the precept of "no harm." From time to time individuals were born into this world who gave example with their lives that however difficult, it is indeed possible to act out the teaching of doing no harm in real life. What sets Mahatma Gandhi a special example of nonviolence is the measure at which he employed the teaching: *"All I have done is to try experiments in both [Truth and nonviolence] on as vast a scale as I could."* He was the first one who employed non-violence in the political arena, which was a revolutionary act that has not been recognized even today according to its global significance. After thousands of years of resolving conflicts with arms, when international and internal warfare still pests humanity in our times, abandoning violence in politics and in conflict resolution is the only way to raise humankind to the full potential of its capacities.

What is generally not known about Gandhi is that he chose nonviolence in the political arena not only out of a pragmatic

strategy. His leadership methods grew out intrinsically from his deeper philosophical and religious convictions. His thinking covered all areas and aspects of human life, starting from the individual and his relation to God, following with his social connections, even to his relations with nature – both the environment outside and the physical health inside.

Let me remind the readers of a heartbreaking story which illuminates his revolutionary and creative way of thinking and the narrow and arduous path he delineates for us to rise above the level of enmity and hatred in order to save the world for the future of our children. In August 1946, one year before Independence, communal riots were already plaguing India. In Calcutta during what became known as the Week of the Long Knives, more than four thousand people were killed, both Hindus and Muslims, and more than one hundred thousand residents lost their homes due to arson and general destruction that accompanied the riots. Both Muslim and Hindu gangs were raging the streets, fighting or taking revenge. It seemed the massacre, religious and ethnic persecution, the rapings will never end. Gandhi rushed to the site to sooth the city in extreme turmoil. He settled in the house of the Calcutta leader of the Muslim League, to show the residents of Calcutta that however hard it may be, they must overcome their enmity to survive. When the tension started to cool down and people were gradually coming back to their senses, many started to recognize how they turned out of their human selves. They came to Gandhi to search for his advice to overcome the unbearable losses and the bitter realization of the horror of their own deeds. A Hindu father came crying: "Bapu, I'm going to Hell! I killed a [Muslim] child! I smashed his head against a wall." "Why?" "Because they killed my son! The Muslims killed my son!" What was Gandhi's answer to this terrible and intolerable life situation?

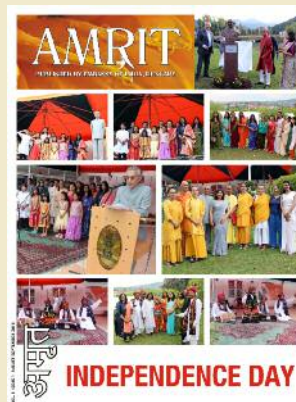
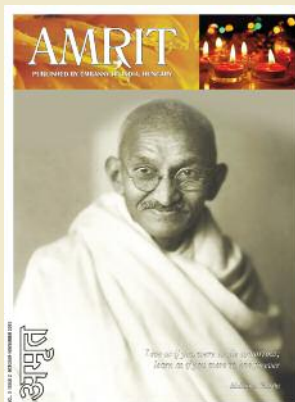
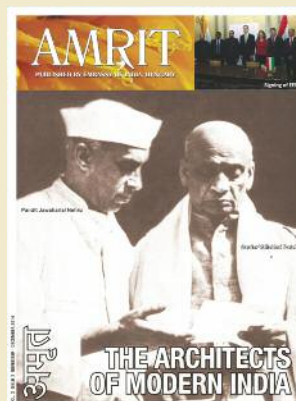
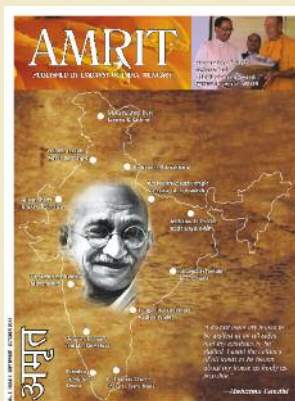
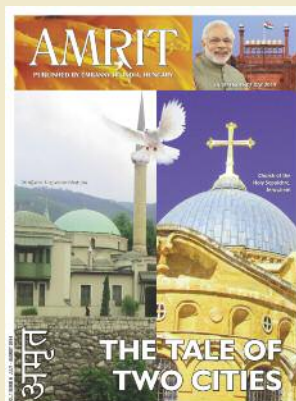
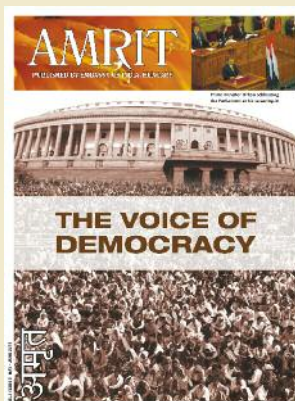
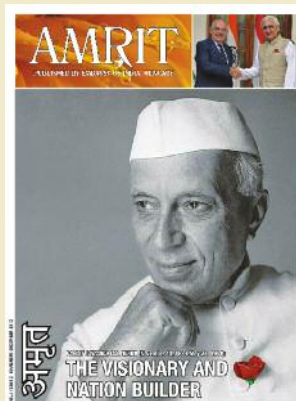
If you really wish to overcome your pain, find a young (Muslim) boy, just as young as your son ... whose parents have been killed by Hindu mobs. Bring up that boy like you would bring up your own son but bring him up in the Muslim faith to which he was born. Only then will you find that you can heal your pain, your anger, and your longing for retribution.² ■



1 Quotations from Richard Attenborough's Gandhi film.

2 Bharucha, Rustom. *Terror and Performance*. New York- Oxon: Routledge, 2014. p. 150.

Some of the previous issues of *Amrit*



Impressions..

By Tanuja Shankar, Director, ASCC

The year is slowly moving towards its closure but the Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre has never been more active as in the last few months. Budapest hardly saw any scorching heat or blazing summer that I can reminisce from my summers spent in India. It was more or less balmy, with just a few spurts of heat waves, mostly surprising for the Hungarians but tolerable for us Indians. During the waning summer and onrush of Autumn the entire vista was flushed with bright hues of oranges and reds, with the streets and gardens full of varied shades of fire all around. Something I cherished and enjoyed. With this flushed and vibrant seasonal colours of August and September, came some hectic times for us at the Centre. The past few months provided some wonderful opportunities for the Centre to collaborate and partner with artists, institutions and individuals forging stronger bonds. On one hand if the Alluring India Fashion Show connected partners like Herend, Kalosca Art and ModArt Academy, the Film Festival had some well known faces of Bollywood visiting the serene town of Balaton as a guest of the Mayor. As a part of our endeavour to connect with Universities, schools, museums and art galleries, we had several events lined up to celebrate Mahatma Gandhi's 150th anniversary. This link that we developed now is going to bear fruits in year 2020 when we have some promising events in collaboration with Hungarian Institutions.



As we welcome 2020, with a full calendar, I realise that my first year in Hungary has passed by in a haze. Time has slipped through my hands like silvery sand. New connections, new relations, new experiences, have added to my growth, enriched my soul. Each new day welcomes me, embraces me, encourages me to take each step at a time, and be prepared for a new year filled with promises to take 'India' to more and more people, and win their hearts...I will end by giving two significant Sanskrit Shlokas reflecting my thoughts-

*'ayam nijah paroveti ganana laghuchetasam
udaracharitanam tu vasudhaiva kutumbhakam'*

'This is my own and that a stranger' – is the calculation of the narrow-minded
For the magnanimous-hearts however, the entire earth is but a family'

Tamil Poet Kavian Poongundranar said something similar 2500 years ago:

"Yathum Oore Yavarum Kelir"
'Every place is my home town; Everyone my kith and kin'

So here I am stepping into another year, in another country, with a lot of positivity and oneness..Amen.

—Tanuja Shankar
Director, Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre

YOGA AND SOUND THERAPY

The power of sound is such that it can alter brainwaves from beta to alpha (relaxation), theta (meditative state) and even delta waves (sleep) and provides relaxation and healing of the nervous system.” Even a mini sound bath can be a beautiful accompaniment to a yoga class.

Sound baths are all the rage in wellness right now, and for good reason. The combination of whale-like echoes, Tibetan bowls, and melodic hums is enough to send anyone into a total trance of tranquility. Often times the experience is passive, with participants cozying up on their backs for meditation while being bathed in vibrations. Sound bath sessions are reportedly good for easing chronic pain and decreasing stress and anxiety. The end results depend on the person—and the bath. Some report feeling energized and balanced, while others are ready for their afternoon siesta.

Sound healing is for the mind, body, and soul. It offers relaxation and deep healing of the nervous system. The power of sound is such that it can alter brainwaves from beta to alpha (relaxation), theta (meditative state) and even delta waves (sleep) and provides relaxation and healing of the nervous system.

Even a mini sound bath can be a beautiful accompaniment to a yoga class. Here are a few tips to getting started:

Begin Class with a Brain Floss

Often times we arrive to the mat with a brain full of to-do lists or overactive imagination. Sound can be used to help clear this monkey mind and prep it for a more restful yoga class. Crystal bowls in particular are a great way of “flossing the brain” as leaving yogis clear-headed. (They’re also fairly simple to tote around in your yoga bag.) Even five minutes of crystal bowls can be a great way to clear out an overactive imagination.

Save it for Savasana

A sound bath Savasana provides an incredibly deep final resting experience, so much so that yogis will practically float out of the room.

Build Your Own Bath

Get creative with how you approach sound healing. You can use one sound instrument or several together, depending on the type and level of class. Some of the essential instruments used in sound bathing include:



Tibetan bowls & metal gongs: Tibetan bowls and gongs work with a specific note. And because they’re made of metal, the sound is sharp and heavy (but still soothing, of course!). Like acupuncture, bowls run off of our meridian, lines, meaning they tap into the meridians of our organ system. This is especially beneficial when have resistance in different areas of your body.

Chakra bowls: Similar to Tibetan bowls, chakra bowls work a specific note, but providing a softer sound than their metal counterparts. These quartz bowls are designed to work with the chakra system in that they are specifically carved to create notes and vibrations that correspond to a certain energy center of the body. These gentle sounds are great for participants who may be less familiar with sound baths, as their sounds are gentle and melodic. Though evidence may be limited on some methods, **sound healing** has been found to be effective for stress reduction and relaxation and has been shown to offer many health benefits. Lately a new kind of **sound therapy**, often called **sound healing**, has begun to attract a following. Also known as vibrational medicine, the



practice employs the vibrations of the human voice as well as objects that resonate—tuning forks, gongs, Tibetan singing bowls—to go beyond relaxation and stimulate **healing**.

At Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Center, Embassy of India, we experiment in various workshops with different Yoga therapies and Methods. ■

—By *Ankita Sood, Yoga Expert*
(ASCC, Embassy of India)

MUSIC

EURO-INDIAN MUSIC

By Dr. Chirayu Shrinivas Bhole

We always say that, in the world music has one language. But what does it mean actually?

As per my opinion, in the world to understand the sense of music, whether it is singing, playing an instrument or dancing, there are three common elements. In India these elements are known as SUR, TAAL and LAYA. In Western music there are concepts of melody, rhythm, tempo, form, harmony and timbre.

We as an Indian know the SEVEN SWARAS i.e. SA, RE, GA, MA, PA, DHA, NI.

Same thing is understood in other world music as DO, RE, MI, FA, SO, LA, TI. OR for the notations or to write score, seven alphabets are used i.e. C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C.

In Indian music different group of beats to play on a percussion instrument like Tabla or Pakhawaj is known as TAAL, the same concept is known as RHYTHM which is played on Drums and other western Rhythmic Instruments.

In India, Music is a part of culture and heritage and has deep-rooted history and tradition.

As an Indian we believe that the classical Indian music is divine and a gift of god and those who are learning are worshiping music.

I as an Indian musician believe that sense of music is cultivated from a very young age. If a child has a sense of music or dance then, through training from expert (Guru) in the specific art should be started from a very early age which after an extensive training and practice under the guidance of teacher (Guru) he or she becomes a good performer.

Indian music is basically a study which is mostly taught orally and practically through performance. The notation system is used to preserve this art and creations in the form of books for the reference in the future or for next generation.

I learned the tradition of Tabla playing from my Guru Lt. Prof. Sudir Kumar Saxena of Ajarada Gharana. He taught me what to play properly, but how to play is the self-learning process and it will come through experience and guidance.

For the last 3 decades, mobility of world music has increased and due to globalization, enhancement of technology and existence of social media we can explore world music from any corner of the world. Due to this Indian music has got more popularity and people and musicians of different countries are attracted towards Indian traditional music and dance.

Every year many foreign students and artists get scholarship from ICCR in the reputed colleges of music for learning Indian Music. Many students are getting scholarship from their own

country to learn Indian music and they are learning from renowned artists of India in specific Musical art form.

Ministry of Culture in India, also has different schemes and projects for promoting Indian Arts and artists in India and across the world.

When I started working as a Tabla teacher & artist, I have been getting opportunity to perform in several places with local Artists. There are some local Artists with whom, I am associated with for the last seven months. Amongst these are Mr. Szabolcs Tóth a professional Sitar player, Mr. Zoltán Lantos, a Jazz Violin player proficient in playing Indian Raagas, Mr. György Molnár who is learning Surbahar from Indian teacher, Mr. Balázs Virágh who is learning Pakhawaj for last 3 years and Mr. Gábor Kőrösi, an artist & a Sound Therapist.

I accompanied and performed with two senior Artists of Hungary, Mr. András Kozma and Zoltán Lantos.

Mr. Kozma was a foundation member in two Hungarian bands: Apostol and Korál. In 1975 he abandoned the guitar and fully committed himself to Indian Classical Music, which he had self-learnt for a couple of years already.

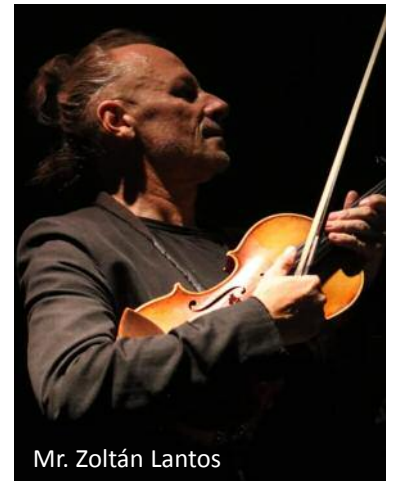
Kozma's very first masters were: Ram Chandra Mistry, Malhar Kulkarni and Padma Bushan Debu Chaudhury. In 1980 the world-famous sitar-player, Pandit Ravi Shankar accepted him as a disciple. He learnt Indian Classical Music from Ravi Shankar Ji for 16 years. András Kozma spent quite a few years in India. In the 1980s he led a 26-part radio programme "Indian Classical Music", which even won an award of excellence. Although each part was only 20 minutes long, it was really something unique in the 1980s. Mr Kozma also established the European institute of RIMPA (Ravi Shankar Institute for Music and Performing Arts), which – with the help of ICCR – has organized numerous Indian Classical concerts in Hungary and other neighbouring countries.

Zoltán Lantos graduated at Ferenc Liszt Music Academy, Faculty of Violin. During his academy years he took up experimental and Eastern music, and in 1985 he received a grant to India to study Indian Classical Music. Besides studying he also composed music and gave concerts in India.



Mr. András Kozma

He said about his vision to play Indian classical music on violin, *'Indian Classical music is one of its kind... Although there are similar modal systems in Asia, none are as crystallized and advanced as the ancient musical tradition of India. For me it is like a cathedral, a musical religion, a vast ocean of interwoven ideas, endless possibilities, the perfect balance of improvisation and composition, based on the strict rules of a highly developed melodious and rhythmic language with its complex grammar and vocabulary that has been passed on and on by the great Gurus through thousands of years.'*



Mr. Zoltán Lantos

Mr Lantos has worked together with a great number of musicians. Among these musicians there were famous Hungarian people like Márta Sebestyén, László Dés, Mihály Dresch, Gábor Juhász and Kornél Horváth, as well as foreign musicians like Charlie Mariano, Ramesh Shotham, Renaud Garcia-Fons, Lars Danielsson, Dhafer Youssef, Markus Stockhausen, Achim Tang, Patrice Heral and many others. When asked about how it has inspired him to grow, Zoltan comments, *'This treasure is above the musician itself, who remains a student forever somehow... therefore It doesn't lend itself easily to experimentation and fusion, but whenever I draw inspiration or direct elements of it its like touching gold..It has to be handled with taste, humility and utmost devotion.'*

Many Hungarian artists are influenced by the Indian music and they have been learning Indian classical music and dance for last many years. Not only this, they have started to teach and perform Indian music and dance regularly in Hungary promoting the rich house of classical musical tradition of India.

One of the dedicated Indian Classical music aficionado is Mr. Szabi Tóth, who lives in Budapest and is a professional Sitar player. He has been teaching sitar in ASCC, Embassy of India for many years and also gives performances in different countries in Europe. For last many years, he has been learning Sitar from Shri. Rajiv Janardan staying in Delhi. He says about how he got attracted towards Indian music, *'I heard an LP of Vilayat Khan long time ago. A 13 minutes long Bhairavi thumri on that LP mesmerized me so much so I found myself in a different world since. I visited India 3 times in the last year and my Guruji visited Hungary twice. I am also connected to my Dadaguruji, Pt. Arvind Parikhji via whatsapp where he can monitor my practice and give new things to practice.'*

Mr. Szabi Tóth has gained the knowledge of Indian Music and its system and has written an article on Indian Music and its similarity with Jazz Music which exists from last 100 years in Europe. From 2002 he broadcasts the Indian classical Music for 2 hrs. weekly through radio for the Hungarian audience. He is also actively involved in organising concerts of Indian Musicians in Budapest and in other big cities to promote Indian Music since 2005.



Mr. Szabolcs Tóth

In my journey to explore the influence of Indian music on Hungarian musicians I got the opportunity to meet another artist Mr. Gábor Kőrösi, a professional Handpan and Guitar player. Handpan is a European instrument, which was invented in Switzerland in 2000. Since then it is being produced all over the world. Gábor's instruments were made in Hungary. On asking how Gábor Kőrösi began collaborating with Indian music, he opined, *'I have always enjoyed trying different styles of music and playing with musicians who represent a new style of music to me, but of course close to my soul. There is a lot to learn from such musical connections. Since my childhood I have been attracted to Eastern philosophies, classical culture, so playing Indian classical music is a fantastic opportunity for me and a dream come true.'*



Mr. Gábor Kőrösi

For me as a tabla player accompanying an Indian instrument was not new. But experimenting with European instruments and creating fusion music was a pleasant challenge. My curiosity to know more about handpan and its use in music therapy gave me some very interesting answers by Gábor, *'The handpan is not really an ancient instrument but appeared on the European music market in 2000 as a result of many years of development by a Swiss couple. Since then, handpans have been manufactured in many countries, mine in Hungary. The handpan is a very special instrument, for both rhythm and melody. Playing a classic Indian rhythm instrument with a tabla can create exciting fusion music in which I can take advantage of both features of a handpan. Indeed, the special vibration of the handpan*

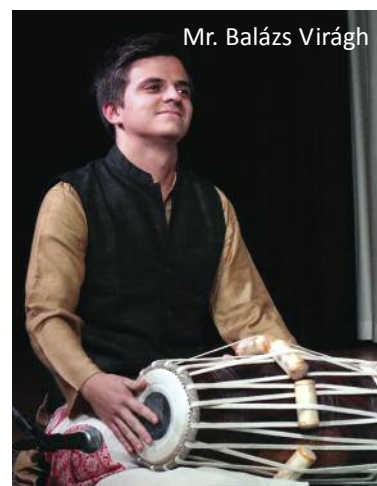
can be used very well for both individual therapy and group sound baths. For individual treatments, it is also possible to play healing melodies on the instrument placed on the client's body. Thus, the purifying, harmonizing effect of vibrations is much stronger.'

As a Tabla player I collaborate with these artists and experiment with our music which gives excellent outcomes.

And I was pleasantly surprised to meet a young 25 year old Hungarian musician Mr. Balázs Virágh who is learning Pakhawaj under the pure tradition of Nathdwara Gharana. At present Pakhawaj has less popularity compared to other traditional Instruments in India.

Mr. Balázs is the only Hungarian who plays Pakhawaj and is very dedicated towards it. He shares his knowledge, *'The pakhawaj is considered to be the ancient most percussion instrument of India. According to mythology, Lord Shiva himself had created this divine instrument. In the old days, it was used by sadhus as a supplementary instrument for chanting religious prayers to gods, called shlokas.'*

And this young boy is now continuing his learning through skype from his spiritual guru Shri Mohan Shyam Sharma staying in Delhi. *'As a foreigner standing at the doorstep of this breathtaking art form, I became mesmerised getting exposed to this complex musical structure, which was developed over thousands of years, but without guidance it was impossible to dig deeper, so the journey began..The word guru itself has a beautiful concept in its meaning of ancient Sanskrit origin. 'Gu' means darkness, 'ru' means to dispel, together meaning 'the dispeller of darkness'.*



Mr. Balázs Virágh

Indeed a learning lesson for many young musicians in India how technology can help an artist who has dedication, focus and passion towards learning classical music.

Being an Indian, I feel very proud that we have such great art forms in Music and Dance which are being imbibed and pursued by people from all over the world. There are so many experts and Performers through whom our ancient culture is not only being promoted but growing and developing in the whole world. ■



—The author is a Tabla teacher cum Performer, ASCC, Embassy of Indian, Budapest, Hungary

AMRITA SHERGIL CULTURAL CENTRE

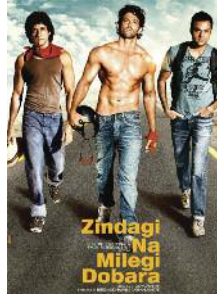
Cultural Report for the months of July-November, 2019

Indian Film Club

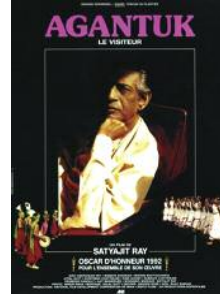
On first and third Friday of every month films are screened under the aegis of “Indian Cine Club” at the auditorium of Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre in Embassy Premises for Hungarian fans. During the summer holiday one film was screened per month. Both Bollywood and regional films are being selected for the programme. Selection of a few film posters which have been screened:



Mirzya



Zindagi na Milegi dobara



Agantuk



Seeta aur Geeta

OCCASIONAL PROGRAMMES in ASCC

Guru Purnima Celebration

8 July, 2019

On the occasion of Guru Purnima, which is an auspicious occasion - a festival that pays respect to the teacher and Guru who guides and enlightens us – a programme was organized in ASCC to remember the Guru. Students of ASCC participated





and demonstrated their skills in Tabla and Kathak dance under their Gurus Chirayu Bhole & Sonali Roy. Audience

was explained about the significance of Guru Purnima in Hindu tradition.

Babel Sound Festival

18 July, 2019



Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre participated in the famous BABEL Sound Music Festival at

Balatonfured on 18th July, 2019. Chirayu Bhole and Sonali Roy with Szabi Toth and Balazs gave scintillating classical Indian

Music performances followed by a very interactive workshop where audience learnt finer nuances of Tabla and Kathak dance.

Yoga for Freedom

20 July, 2019



Ms Ankita Sood, Yoga Expert from Embassy of India successfully conducted a very special Yoga Session- Yoga for Freedom from illness, negative

energy, stress, anxiety, health problems for Hungarians on 20th July 2019 from 9 - 10 am at the famous Iconic Liberty Bridge, Budapest. More than 100 Yoga

Enthusiasts participated with full zeal in this Yoga for freedom movement and learnt the art of being free from problems by the Indian Yoga Expert Ankita Sood.

TIC Workshop

25 July, 2019



Enlightening Session on relevance of Puranic story, 'Amrit Manthan' (Churning of Nectar) between the Gods and Demons and its relevance in today's times by Spiritual Guide & Writer, Ms. Annu Kalra from

New Delhi took place in the Yoga & TIC class at ASCC. She started the session by the auspicious blowing of the 'Shankh' (Conch). Ms Kalra also presented her book, 'Ahirbhaav' and the tarot cards made of her paintings on

deities to Director, Tanuja Shankar. She showed some of her paintings and related them to her talk. The session also had meditation & breathing techniques by TIC Ms. Ankita Sood. Interpretation was done by Melinda Irtl.

Press Conference for Indian Film Festival in Budapest

Budapest & Delhi, 9 September, 2019

On 9 September a Press Conference was held at Embassy of India to announce the 5th Indian Film Festival in Hungary which scheduled from Oct 7th -13th, 2019 at Cinema Pink, Mom Park at Budapest. The press conference was addressed by Ambassador, Mr. Kumar Tuhin, Director ASCC, Ms. Tanuja Shankar, Curator of the Film Festival, Captain Rahul Bali, Manager of Cinema Pink & Onur Malgil. During the conference the Ambassador said that the Indian



Journalists listening to the discussion on Indian Film Festival



Ambassador responding to the journalists



A journalist asking questions



Ambassador talking with journalist and Rahul Bali Curator

Film Festival Hungary is an important festival in the event calendar of Embassy and has become a great platform for cultural exchanges and mutual appreciation of cinema between India & Hungary. He said that over the years the festival has been opening new avenues of bilateral cooperation between the two countries and creating a euphoria about India in Hungary. Capt. Rahul Bali emphasized that Cultural Cooperation always leads to Commercial Cooperation and Indian Film Festival Hungary has been a landmark festival promoting cultural cooperation and spreading the fragrance of India in Budapest via cinema.

Also a Press Conference was held at the Embassy of Hungary in New Delhi where the Ambassador Mr. Gyula Petho, DG ICCR, Mr. Akhilesh Mishra, Curator of Indian Film Festival Worldwide Capt. Rahul Bali and actor Raima Sen addressed the media and announced the 5th Indian Film Festival. The 5th Indian Film Festival was scheduled from Oct 7th-13th at Cinema Pink at Mom Park mall in Budapest where 12 spectacular films were showcased. The film 'Thinking of Him' with Victor Bannerjee & Raima Sen was screened for the opening and blockbuster films like 'Saaho' and 'Highway' were also featured. Also National Award winning films in several languages like Assamese, Marathi, Malayali, Bengali etc. were screened for the festival.



Group photo



Ambassador Gyula Petho, Captain Rahul Bali, DG ICCR Mr. Akhilesh Mishra, Raima Sen and Dr. Raju Chadha



Ambassador Gyula Petho, Raima Sen and Captain Rahul Bali



DG ICCR Mr. Akhilesh Mishra addressing the press conference

Opening Ceremony of Hindi classes and lecture series

12 September, 2019



LEFT: Director, ASCC and Dr Mária Négyesi inaugurating the book.

CENTER: Dr Chirayu Bhole playing Tabla. **RIGHT:** Ms Sonali Roy performing Kathak dance

The Opening Ceremony of Hindi classes and lecture series was held on 12 September, 2019 at Indian Embassy, Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre in Budapest, Hungary. On this occasion Prof Asghar Wajahat's latest book, 'Swarg Mei Paanch Din' (Five Days in heaven) was also inaugurated by Director ASCC and Dr Maria Negyesi. The book is based on the times Mr. Wajahat spent in Hungary's visiting professor of Hindi at ELTE Univ few years ago.



Group photo

TIC Workshop

18 September, 2019



Group photo

On 18 September, 2019 a very Special Indian Culture Workshop was organized at

ASCC, Embassy of India.

Shri Advayaswami from Vedic

Foundation introduced the concept of Fire or Agni in ancient Indian tradition. Ms Ankita Sood connected the Fire

element present in the human body with Surya Namaskar and its Mantras.

Ms Bhagirathi helped in the translation to the Hungarian Yoga Students and

performed kirtan to conclude the three hours long workshop.

Alluring India Fashion Show

26 September, 2019



Ambassador speaking on the occasion



Grand finale with Ambassador



Herend collection



Adaara collection



Bharatanatyam performance

Scintillating Fashion Show Alluring India 2019 was successfully held on 26th Sept, at Kiscelli Museum, by Embassy of India in collaboration with Gait-N-Grace spearheaded by Vinay Gupta and the team of Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre in all its glory and finesse, with 12 Indian & Hungarian models walking the ramp in four breathtaking rounds, and four fusion dance & musical performances by artists from India Cultural Centre. This year the occasion was dedicated to celebrating 70 years of India-Hungary diplomatic relations and 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The rounds showcasing pure handloom saris and handcrafted garments depicted the traditional handloom fabrics from India. The event had several collaborators from India and Hungary like Ministry of Textiles & Handloom Export Council of India, Incredible India-the Tourism Office, Air India, House of Handloom, Adaara, Herend Porcelain Jewellery, ModArt International, Kalocsa crafts, JoInTrendy fashions, Craft Buzz and so on. Many dignitaries and senior members of the Govt of Hungary were present to see the spectacular apparel ensemble.



Indian Film Festival 2019

7-13 October, 2019



Lamp lighting ceremony



Ambassador speaking at the programme



LEFT: Noted Bollywood actor Raima Sen being felicitated by Ambassador. **RIGHT:** Kathak & Hungarian Folk Dance presentations

The 5th Indian Film Festival opened successfully on Oct 7th at Cinema Pink, Mom Park with the presence of noted film personalities, Mr. Rahul Mittra, Actor Raima Sen, Producer Mr. Suraj Kumar, Curator of the IFFW Mr. Rahul Bali and many important guests from Budapest including MOS Mr. Peter Szataray, Dy Secy, Mr. Andras Baranyi, DG, MFAT, Mr. Norbert Revai-Bere and many diplomats & dignitaries from both Indian and Hungary side. The festival was inaugurated by H.E Mr. Kumar Tuhin and the guests of honour through lamp lighting followed by felicitations of the important guests & partners for their contribution. The Indian Film festival also felicitated its main festival partners Mr. Saer Zulkarnain of Rajkot Palace and Onur Malgil of Cinema Pink. It was followed by a vibrant Indo-Hungarian cultural programme with medley Bollywood dance by Sonali Roy & students in Kathak form and a Hungarian folk dance ensemble. The opening film THINKING OF HIM was then shown which was appreciated by all.

During the 5th Indian Film Festival an exhibition was displayed on portraits of Bollywood stars by Ildiko Madarasz. Ildiko grew up in a family of artists and started painting at a very young age. Her defining connection with India was when she won the President of India's Gold Medal for the best painting at the Shankar's International Children's Competition.



MOS Mr. Peter Szataray with Spouse,
Ambassador of India with spouse

She studied at the University of Applied Arts Budapest specialising in textile art. In the last years she has been focusing on painting. She was fascinated by the diversity of the Indian cinema, which gave her insight into an exciting world. It inspired her to start a series of paintings on Indian actors.

Round Table Conference

8 October, 2019



Ambassador meeting with Rahul Mittra



Discussion on film issues



Raima Sen in ASCC

The film makers from India (Raima Sen, Rahul Mittra, Suraj Kumar), representatives from Hungarian cinema industry (Zita

Gergely, Ferenc Peter) and festival partners (Rajkot Palace) met for a Round Table Conference where Ambassador of India in Hungary

opened it for a discussion on challenges and scope of India-Hungary partnership in film productions.

Balatonfured Tour of the Bollywood Film Team



The film team who had come for the Indian Film Festival was taken for an Incredible India tour through various places in Budapest and Balatonfured. The Mayor of Balatonfured hosted a lunch for the team and also organised a walk through the Tagore Promenade.



Gandhi Jayanti in Pécs

2 October, 2019

150th Birth Anniversary was celebrated at Gandhi Gimnazium, Pecs successfully by Embassy of India, Hungary. The function started with floral tribute at the statue of Mahatma Gandhi by H.E. Mr. Kumar Tuhin and

the other guests. Ambassador Mr. Kumar Tuhin addressed the students, teachers and special guests present at the function on Oct 2nd and talked about the relevance of Gandhian values for contemporary society. Speeches were

also given by Mr Attila Sztojka, DG, State Secretariat for Social Affairs and Inclusion, Mr Prabal Datta, General Manager and Delivery Center Head of TCS and Mr István Ignácz, Director of Gandhi School. A vibrant and



Floral tribute in front of Gandhi statue



LEFT: Programme organized by Gandhi School in the Aula. **CENTER:** Ambassador is speaking on the occasion. **RIGHT:** Indian cultural performance

mesmerising cultural programme was presented by students from different schools and communities (Roma, Croatian and German). Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre artists also presented a rendition of Bapu's favourite songs, 'Raghupati Raghav Rajaram' and 'Vashnav Jan Te' in a melodious composition by Chirayu Bhole, Szabi Toth, Tibor and Sonali Roy on Sitar, tabla, Congo and Kathak dance.



LEFT: Ambassador paying tribute to the statue at Pecs University. **RIGHT:** Students of Pecs University giving floral tribute

Commemorating the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in Hopp Ferenc Museum

2 October, 2019



Dr Györgyi Fajcsák speaking



Ambassador making flower tribute

On 3 October, 2019, Ferenc Hopp Museum collaborating with Embassy of India organized a celebration in the garden of the museum on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti 150. The programme started with floral tribute and speeches of H.E. Kumar Tuhin, Ambassador and Dr Györgyi Fajcsák, director of Hopp Ferenc museum. It was followed by cultural programme by artists of ASCC with a fusion dance-music performance on the theme of “Vaishnava jana toh...”. The programme concluded with tea house in the garden.



Sonali Roy dancing

Lecture Gandhi@150

4-5 October, 2019



Gandhi's freedom struggle culminated in India's Independence on 15th August, 1947. Mahatma Gandhi strived to lead the country to not just political independence, but to a better India and a society free of caste, religious, economic and even gender prejudices. Though politically independent, India has long since grappled with the same vital issues that Gandhi had to face when he came back to India on January 9, 1915 after his South African

odyssey viz. –health issues, drinking water problem, social issues etc. The occasion of 150th birth anniversary celebrations has given us an opportunity to remind the humanity of the efficacy of the message of Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi's lessons are relevant in every policy of the country such as Swachh Bharat, rights of women and children, and of civil liberties of small and disadvantaged groups, health and well-being of the Indian farmer and the Indian village.

Embassy of India celebrated Bapu's 150th birth anniversary this October by a lecture series at its premises by Dr. Shobhana Radhakrishna, a veteran thinker, philosopher, activist and expert on Gandhi ji titled 'Transformational Leadership of Mahatma Gandhi & Its relevance in Contemporary World'. The lectures were held at CEU University, ELTE Indology Dept. & Bhaktivedanta College on 4 October, 2019 and in ASCC on 5 October, 2019.

Pt Ranajit Sengupta (Sarod) and Mainak Banerjee (Tabla) concert

29 October, 2019



Ranajit Sengupta & Mainak Banerjee performing

On 29 October, 2019 Pandit Ranajit Sengupta, one of the Best Sarode Player & Music Composer from India performed in ASCC accompanied by Mainak Banerjee Tabla player. Mr Sengupta has performed in more than 40 countries around the

world for last 25 years. He is a student of late Ustad Dhyanesht Khan & Ustad Aashish Khan of Maihar Senia Gharana & attended several workshops by Late Dr. Ustad Ali Akbar Khan in India & California. He is one of the youngest TOP Grade Sarode Player from All India

Radio & Television & winner of "Presidents' award for securing First position in All India Radio Competition, Acharya Baba Allaaddin Memorial Award, Pandit Nikhil Bannerjee Memorial Award & "Best talent of the Year" award by HMV to name a few.

Second International Meetup & Fair of SAP Labs Hungary

8 November, 2019



LEFT: Mr Patrick Lawrence explaining about India. **CENTER:** Employees of ASCC. **RIGHT:** Henna painting

On 8 November, 2019 Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre participated in an event organized by SAP Hungary for the second time. The event has been organized to celebrate the beauty of a diverse workplace by introducing different cultures to the employees. Each participating country hosted a stall and people visited them, could meet the other colleagues, learn



LEFT: Carrom playing. **ABOVE:** Bollywood dance

more about their culture, hear their stories about traditions, history, they could get

travel tips, learn a few words in their language, and taste their national cuisine as

well. India stall was very successful with its colourful display on the country.

Book Launch & Hindi Day

13 November, 2019 at ELTE BTK Kari Tanácsterem



LEFT: Audience having snacks. **CENTER:** Exhibition in the corridor about bilateral relations between Hungary and India. **RIGHT:** Dignitaries at the book counter



LEFT: Book launch. **CENTER:** Cultural performance. **RIGHT:** Book Launch group photo

On 13th November, at ELTE BTK Kari Tanácsterem an event was celebrated under the aegis of Hindi Day by the Embassy Of India in Hungary and release of three significant Indian books which were translated & published under the India Library Project, started by Ministry Of External Affairs, Publicity Division. They are 'Manu Smriti' an ancient Sanskrit text, one of the best known Dharmashastras, 'Tamas' famous novel of Bhisham Sahni, one of the best Hindi writers of the 20th century and 'Ek Sagarbhit Hindi Shabdavali'

(Magyar-Hindí Szókincstár) a collection of Hindi vocabulary & phrases for students of Indology & Hindi. The books were released in a formal function by H. E Mr. Kumar Tuhin, Vice Rector Prof. Imre Hamar and Dean of ELTE BTK, Dr. Sonkoly Gábor. On the occasion Director-ASCC Ms. Tanuja Shankar, HOD of Indology Dept, Prof Mate Ittzes, Former HOD of Indology Dept & Teacher of Hindi Course (Embassy Of India) Dr. Maria Negyesi, Dr Peter Sagi were also present. The release was followed by a group discussion on the books and its

relevance in today's times moderated by Dr. Negyesi and attended by Gyorgy Zentai, Endre Greskovits, Dr Csaba Dezso, Dr Ferenc Ruzsa and Dr Peter Sagi. Earlier during the day, Director ASCC gave a lecture at the Centre For India Studies for the students of history studying under Dr. Rama Byrappa. The event also had a cultural programme with a duett by Chirayu Bhole on Tabla and Sonali Roy with Kathak dance. Visitors bought the books and also enjoyed Indian tea and snacks in the Council hall which was decorated with shades of Indian culture.

550th Guru Nanak Dev Anniversary

16 November, 2019



Embassy Of India in Hungary and Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre celebrated the 550th birth anniversary of the first Sikh Guru with enthusiasm, together with the members of the Sikh community. Members of Indian diaspora turned up in large numbers and made the event successful. Ragi Jatha singers from Vienna Gurudwara came and rendered Kirtan, Ardaas. A lively Langar followed the prayer service where everyone enjoyed the community Lunch in a traditional way.



Yoga & Music Therapy

19 November, 2019



Our Yoga Expert Ms Ankita Sood conducted this session with Dr Chirayu Bhole, Tabla Teacher cum Performer and Mr Szabi Toth, Sitar Teacher cum Performer.

Sumeet Anand (Dhrupad) and Virágh Balázs (Pakhawaj) concert

16 November, 2019



LEFT: Sumit Anand and Balázs Virágh performing. **RIGHT:** Director providing gift to artists

Diplomatic Fair 2019

24 November, 2019



LEFT: Ambassador, His spouse Mrs. Deepa (extreme right) and guests at Diplomatic Fair. **RIGHT:** India stall



LEFT: India stall. **CENTER:** Indian Food. **RIGHT:** Dance

Spectacular fair of Diplomatic Spouses of Budapest was held on 24th November at Hotel Intercontinental with great splendour and enthusiasm. Embassy of India

participated with great gusto and fervour. The programme included India stall where people purchased gift items, cloths, spices etc. for Christmas celebration. Also cultural performance

was organized by ASSC. A fusion music and dance performance was showcased by five artists of the centre. Ambassador Kumar Tuhin visited the Fair with his wife.

70TH CONSTITUTION DAY OF INDIA



Embassy of India celebrated the 70th Constitution Day of India on Nov 26th, marking the adoption of the Indian Constitution by the people of India in 1949. The law book was formally made effective on January 26th 1950 which is celebrated as Republic Day of India. Today Message by Speaker of Hungarian National Assembly was Screened, and Ambassador read the preamble with the staff and people present during this occasion. Quiz winners were given prizes by Ambassador.

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