

# AMRIT

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## INDIA@75 ACTIVITIES 2021

The Elements of 75 Years of Independence of India in Hungary



# AMRIT

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# Impressions

**“For last year’s words belong to last year’s language and next year’s words await another voice.  
And to make an end is to make a beginning.”**

-T.S. Eliot

The above quote by the famous poet of modern times, sums up the bygone times of 2020 and 2021, which passed away in a blur, leaving many pages of the book turning at a very fast pace. The pandemic took a toll on everyone and everything. But that did not dampen the spirits of nature, or the juices of creativity. More than ever, the virtual world brought people closer and made them more eloquent. Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre had a busy year. The most special occasion this year has been the celebrations of India’s 75 year of Independence which has been dedicated to the rich history, culture & civilization of India under the nomenclature ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’. We at Budapest explored different ways to connect with our past and bring it forth for the friends of India and members of Indian community to re-acquaint, reminisce and feel proud of the rich heritage. Although pandemic restricted the physical movements, the activities nevertheless had to be revamped and re-invented so that Indian culture could be made available on the fingertips. A variety of themes given by the government of India facilitated to conceptualise events that could connect with the readers & target audience faster and more effectively. Thus, if a cultural video magazine, ‘Kutfo’ connected with artists, academicians, litterateurs, spiritual leaders then a special India@75 lecture series, ‘Diaspora Diaries’ on and by members of diaspora brought the Indian community together. As the severity of pandemic lessened, dedicated events on Dr. Ambedkar, Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi, Amrita Shergil, Elizabeth & Sass Brunner and many more were created in different cities with the help of local municipality, museums, schools etc. One thing that took centre stage was also the involvement of the people through quizzes, webinars, video messages, documentaries, lectures, cultural programmes which were all showcased on the social media platforms.

The positives of the digital age came to the fore, outreach increased and connectivity was enhanced. Festivals, Musical concerts, debates, and online classes made the year 2021, take a new shape altogether. With the highly significant visit of Hon. President of ICCR to Budapest, Sri Vinay Sahasrabudhe, the year also got a lease of life that helped cement India-Hungary bilateral cultural and educational relations further. Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre was as active as ever!

## As another Quote Says

**“Tomorrow is the first blank page of a 365-page book. Write a good one’, it is time to bid goodbye to yet another year and welcome a new year, a new book and a whole lot of new pages to turn and read. With Best Wishes for a bright new year, I sign off the year 2021!**

“Wherever you go, Go with all your heart.”

— Confucius

**TANUJA SHANKAR**  
Director, Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre





# India@75 Events

## Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

To mark India@75, Ambedkar Jayanti was celebrated suitably in collaboration with Dr. Ambedkar School in Miskolc city on 14 April, where the Ambassador inaugurated a dedicated 'India Room' at the school premises. Books, Indian costumes, electronic items like hard drives with Indian music & films in soft copy, as well as decoration items were contributed. Preceding the event, a virtual event was also organised by Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre for the students with Debates & Essay Contests. Winners were felicitated by Ambassador & Founder of the School.

**Inauguration of India Room at Ambedkar School; Group photo at Ambedkar School after the event**



School Outreach programme based on India@75 started with a special programme 'Dharohar' where Indian musical instruments were introduced to Hungarian students through lecture-demos and performances, followed by interactive sessions.

Mission launched an in-depth video interview series this year focussed on bilateral relations called 'India Hungary Dialogues' During the year nearly 14 episodes of this series in which noted indologists, artists, cultural diplomats, writers, diplomats & political leaders participated. Interview series started with the inaugural episode of Speaker of Hungarian Assembly, Lazslo Kover, and followed by dialogues with State Secy, Mr. Peter Sztaray, Prof Imre Lazar, Dr. Gabor Sonkoly, Mr. Esik Roberts, Dr. Zoltan Wilhelm, Ms. Panni Somi, Ms. Zsuzsa Komjati, Ms. Aniko Kotroczo, Dr. Maria Negyesi, Dr. Rita Jeney, Mr. Ivan Szalkai, Mr. Tibor Kovacs, Dr. Gabor Karsai and Mr. Mihaly Baranyi. The interviews were taken by noted indologists & researchers of Hungary. Few special episodes of 'India Hungary Dialogue' like the interview of Ayurveda Professor & expert, Dr. Ivan Szalkai received more than 40000 views in a few days.

A Cultural Magazine 'Kutfo Cultural Talks' has been launched marking Azadi Ka Amrit mahotsav where eminent cultural players like artists, spiritual leaders, writers, painters, musicians are being featured & interviewed. This monthly magazine started with Ferencz Roland, Tamil Expert in Hungary followed by Sivaram Swamy of ISKCON, noted painter Ildiko Halazs, Sanskritologist Csaba Deszo, Yoga Ambassadors Andrea Bozo & Boglarka Csoz, Odissi dancer Virag Turi, Kuchipudi dancer Gabriella Garima, Sitar maestro Andras Kozma, Surbahar player Gyorgy Molnar etc. This magazine aims to capture the exemplary work done by Hungarians in promoting Indian culture.





# Kútfő

To mark India@75, the Embassy of India in Hungary celebrated the 160th anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore in partnership with the office of Mayor in Balatonfüred, on May 5th. The event was a tribute to Nobel laureate & legendary poet & philosopher of India Rabindra Nath Tagore by the Embassy of India at the serene location Balatonfüred where Tagore had visited & stayed for a few months in 1926. Hon. Mayor & Ambassador gave speeches followed by a talk by Dr. Imre Lazar, cultural diplomat on lesser known figures in Hungary who were associated with Tagore. A floral tribute was paid at the statue of Tagore on the banks of Lake Balaton and a webinar was conducted with noted experts on the topic ‘Tagore in Hungary, Role of Hungarians in Vishwa Bharti in shaping the Independence process’ from India & Hungary. A dance drama was presented on ‘Gitanjali’.

**Interjú sorozat az indiai-magyar kapcsolatokról**

**Műsorvezetők:**

- Füldös Irit, *Művelődésügyi miniszter, A Hír Képzési és Fejlesztési Főosztály vezetője*
- Dr. Aldan Anna, *indológus*
- Dr. Szál Péter, *indológus*

**Önce, Kumar Tuhin, India magyarországi nagykövete**  
**Kövecz László, a Magyar Országgyűlés elnöke**

**INDIA HUNGARY DIALOGUES**

**Vendégeink:**

- Prof. Dr. Somkóty Gábor, *ELTE BTK, dékán*
- Kuntó Zsuzsa, *előd, Magyar Tájékoztató Szolgálat vezetője*
- Dr. Szalkai Péter, *egyetemi docens, a Magyar Ajándék Tudományterületi Társaság elnöke*
- Dr. László Imre, *PhD, diplomata, India-kutató, a Delhi Magyar Tájékoztató és Kulturális Központról igazgató*
- Dr. Wilhelm Zoltán, *fordító, egyetemi docens, Pécsi Tudományegyetem*
- Somai Panni, *indológus, történész, koreográfus*
- Kovács Tibor, *diplomata*



# Kútfő



In the presence of premier India Studies & Indian Philosophy/language Institutions like ELTE University, Bhaktivedanta College, Dharma Gate Buddhist College, Vedic Foundation, ISKCON, Sarasvati Foundation, Ambassador Kumar Tuhin launched the Sanskrit Learning Gamified App called 'Little Guru' created by ICCR & developed by Sportswizz Technology Pvt Ltd. CEO, Anuj Sharma gave a detailed presentation of the app. Noted Sanskritologist & Author David Frawley ( Vamdev Shastri) spoke about the significance and benefits of learning Sanskrit language to understand India in its entirety.

ICCR ( Indian Council For Cultural Relations) launched a campaign to promote Sanskrit language among students, religious scholars, Indologists, historians across the world. As a part of its mandate to promote the vibrant cultural heritage of India, ICCR promotes Sanskrit through providing books and material to Sanskrit institutes all over the world. In keeping pace with changing technology in both access as well as teaching methods, ICCR has tied up with Gamapp Sportswizz Tech. Pvt. Ltd. & launched 'LITTLE GURU'; a specialized app for learning Sanskrit. Little Guru is a gamified app based on an interactive platform which will make Sanskrit learning easy, entertaining and fun. Embassy of India in Hungary launched this app virtually in collaboration with Little Guru where several Sanskrit scholars, organisations and students were present. Noted sanskrit scholar David Frawley, Swami Advayanand,



Prof Mate Ittzes, Amb. Kumar Tuhin and many others spoke on the occasion to stress the importance of learning Sanskrit. The app was made accessible to all the cultural partners of the Embassy.





This month in the 6th episode of video magazine 'India Hungary Dialogues' notable Bharatnatyam dancer Panni Somi was interviewed by indologist Anna Aklan on the growth of classical Indian dances in Hungary & the popularity of Indian Culture amongst the Hungarians. Besides this, the Episode 2 of the cultural video magazine, 'Kutfo.. Culture Talks' featured Sivarama Swami of ISKCON, who had a dialogue with Melinda Irtl, Professor, Dharmagata Buddhist College, on Indian Philosophy & its spread in Hungary. Both the episodes encapsulated milestones in the spread of Indian culture in Hungary marking India@75.



Last but not the least, 'World Culture Day' was aptly celebrated through a 'Virtual walk of Heritage & History' giving glimpses of India-Hungary connections through documentaries, live virtual walks from Budapest, presentations on remarkable contribution by Hungarians in study of India, PPT on ancient Chola Dynasty & a film on most ancient living city of India-Varanasi. A vibrant dance drama was shown from Varanasi on the poem 'Ram Ki Shakti Puja' by noted Hindi poet Suryakant Tripathi Nirala.



The month of June started with quizzes related with India@75 posted weekly on social media with a wide response and special Countdown videos marking 75 Days to go before 7th International Day of Yog . The weekly India@75 quizzes received a good resposne and helped in

engaging the diapsora as well as local audience. A thrice weekly special Radio quiz also has been running on India@75 where RJ asks interesting questions on India and the winners get vouchers from different Indian restaurants & stores.



Film on Szepessy villa in Zebegeny by Orsolya Csillery; Dr Sági Péter recites a poem by Weöres Sándor

June started with India@75 weekly quizzes and 7th IDY Countdown videos marking 75 Days to go. Every week one significant question related to the history & culture of India is asked through an infographic which gets an immense response.

**AMRITA SHER-GIL CULTURAL CENTRE**  
— announces —  
**WEEKLY INDIA QUIZ**  
Month 5

**# 16 It is the 75th Independence Day this year which means ?**

(a) India has achieved 74 years of freedom  
(b) India has achieved 73 years of freedom  
(c) India has achieved 75 years of freedom  
(d) India has achieved 76 years of freedom

Embassy of India in Hungary  
**INDIA @75**  
Celebrating 75 Years of Independence

Fastest Correct Answer gets a Prize Every month

भारत मंत्रालय  
**संघात मंत्रालय**

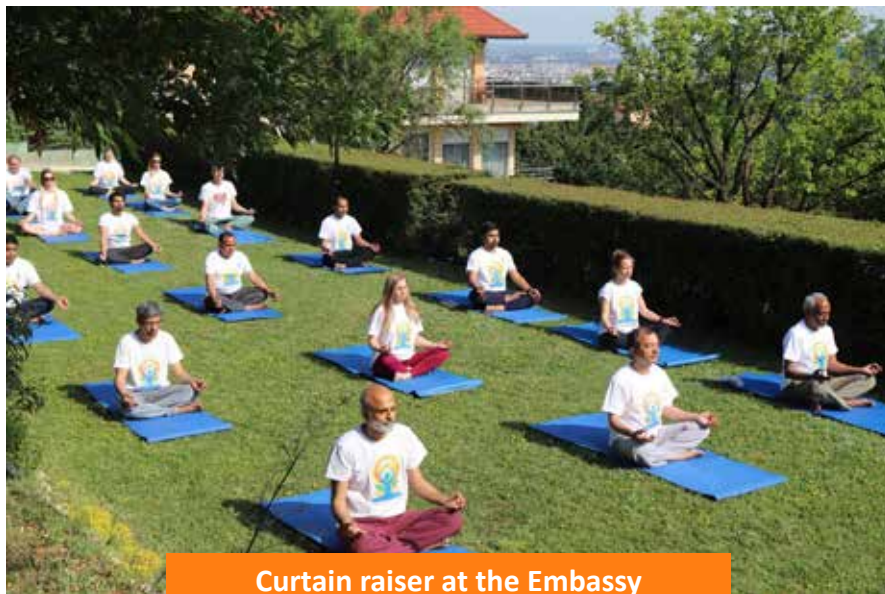
#India@75 special

Email your answer: [asco.embassy@gmail.com](mailto:asco.embassy@gmail.com)



The Countdown videos were given by yoga leaders & representatives of leading yoga organisations as well as yoga brand ambassadors of Yoga giving positive messages of health & wellness. A thrice weekly special Radio quiz also has been running on India@75 where RJ asks interesting questions on India and the winners get vouchers from different Indian restaurants.

The curtain raiser 'IDY' event was conducted on June 11, at India House where the staff of Embassy led by Ambassador performed Common Yoga Protocol under yoga teacher Preeti Narwade.



Two informative webinars were conducted in the run up to the main Yoga day. Due to 2022 declared as the year of Millets by the UN, a webinar on the theme 'Healthy Eating Habits according to traditional methods' was conducted where Millet Specialist from India, Pallavi Upadhyay also gave a live recipe demonstration. Dr. Asmita Wele, former Ayurveda Chair focussed on the importance of water in our diet. Hungarian nutritionist talked about the benefits of vegan & vegetarian food. Anoothi Vishal, well known writer & food pop up expert talked about the importance of Indian spices. A recipe contest was also organised on this occasion in which people participated enthusiastically. Second webinar was on 'Mantras & Meditation' for students of Yoga in Bosnia & Herzegovina which was an interactive programme where students expressed their feelings & responses while chanting.

## Webinar on Healthy Eating

Mission celebrated the 7th International day of Yoga in a special manner this year to mark India@75. Iconic venues were chosen with the help of local municipalities of cities and thus keeping in mind the slow easing of restrictions, a successful Yoga session was done on the banks of river Danube in Esztergom city in Hungary on 19th June. On 20th June, a grand celebration saw a wider participation at the Athletic Centre in the picturesque Margaret Island. On 20th, the Yoga Day was celebrated suitably in Bosnia & Herzegovina, at the prestigious National Museum with a local yoga teacher. 21st June saw another iconic presentation of Yoga at Fisherman's Bastion, an architectural wonder. The IDY series was concluded by a vibrant & colourful yoga session for children patients of Hungary's biggest kids hospital Heim Pal Hospital.

## IDY in Esztergom



To mark India@75 this year a special Press Meet was organised during IDY at India House where leading journalists, TV producers, Anchors, Radio Producers, magazine Editors joined to interact and get briefing about the forthcoming plans of the Embassy. A special Yoga session was also conducted with them, where President of Hungarian Yoga Teacher's Association, Ms. Zsuzsa Komjati initiated them into easy Yogic exercises & meditation. Ambassador Kumar Tuhin briefed them about the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav initiatives and the significance of International Day of Yoga event.

## IDY at Halászbástya, Budapest





## Press Meeting



On June 3, a special 'India day' was organised for the members of the Budapest Correctional Institution of the Ministry of Human Resources where the young juvenile delinquents were given an overview of the culture & customs of India through presentation, incredible India videos, costume display, food & games.



## Correctional Institution of the Ministry of Human Resources

## DIASPORA DIARY LAUNCHED UNDER Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav



Celebrating India's 75 years of Independence, a special India'75 lecture series was launched in collaboration with members of Indian community in Budapest. In this lecture series, notable members are invited to give a presentation & talk about any significant topic related with the history, heritage, art, culture, growth & development of India. Subjects ranging from ancient art forms, digital India, ecology & living traditions, Indian festivals, Tourism at rare locations of India, Yog & Gandhi's values and many other subjects have been covered in this virtual talk series which is livestreamed on social media few times a month.





## Celebrations of 75th Independence Day

On August 12th, marking Amrit Mahotsav, a humanitarian activity was done by the Mission on August 12. Distribution of cooked & uncooked food was done for the homeless and needy people of Budapest in collaboration with ISKCON and SRF Limited in Budapest. During the event Ambassador addressed the people and also spoke about the Amrit Mahotsav initiatives. Dy Mayor Csaba Somlyody also spoke on the occasion. More than 200 people availed this initiative.

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### Kutfo Episode



Food distribution in collaboration with ISKCON



food distribution in Népliget

# VISIT OF PRESIDENT ICCR, SRI VINAY SAHASRABUDDHE TO BUDAPEST

SEPTEMBER



Ambassador speaking on the occasion; Flag hoisting

August 14- Tri-Colour lighting was done at India House on Aug 14 to mark 75th Independence day of India celebrations. On August 15 a vibrant 75th Independence Day was celebrated by EOI at India House in the presence of hundreds of Indians and friends of India. After the unfurling of the flag, the Ambassador addressed the audience and read the President of India's speech. A colourful musical ensemble 'Rhythms of India' was presented by 30 artists, both Hungarian and Indian, on specially curated music that delineated various forms of classical & folk dances. Together with this, men and women walked on stage displaying the region-specific weaves of India in all its finery. The atmosphere resonated with applause after the captivating performance. Event was also covered widely by local media & TV channels.



Artistes at Independent Day Celebration



Gathering at India House



The highlight of September was the visit of ICCR President, Dr. Vinay Prabhakar Sahasrabuddhe, to Budapest, to inaugurate the Hindi Diwas celebrations marking Amrit Mahotsav. The Hindi Diwas was celebrated on 29th Sept physically at Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre where ICCR Alumni, Hindi students of Hungary both Hungarians and Indians presented a vibrant programme consisting of poetry recitations, classical Indian dances, Hindi Play and documentaries. An Exclusive ‘Dance of Freedom’ music video was also released which was a tribute by Hungarian dancers to Indian classical dance forms.



Dr. Sahasrabuddhe also had several significant meetings & bilateral cultural talks on the sidelines of his visit, with the Dy State Secy, cultural diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the leadership team of ELTE University and the faculty of Indian Studies Dept at the ELTE University.

In the run up to Hindi Diwas several activities were organised around the Hindi Diwas during September. On Sept 14th, an International Webinar was organised by Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre on the topic, ‘Sahitya & Creation of Society’ where writers, poets and scholars from 6 countries participated. President ICCR, Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe and Vice President of Sahitya Academy, Sri Madhav Kaushik were special guests. China, S.Korea, Maldives, Srilanka, India & Hungary

participated in which notable scholars shared their valuable thoughts on the topic and also read from their stories. Mamta Kalia, Dr. Ushakiran Khan, Mridula Garg, Gitanjali Shree from India, Prof. Upul Ranjith Hewawitanagamage from Srilanka, Iyaz Naseem from Maldives, Dr. Jia yan from Beijing, YouSun lee from Seoul and Peter Sagi from Hungary participated in the webinar. EAM’s Hindi Diwas message was also shown during the webinar.

During the month, a colourful Janmashtami festival was also celebrated by the students & teachers of dance courses, especially Kathak & Hindi courses. Children narrated important sequences from Lord Krishna’s life and also enacted Krishnaleela. A vibrant dance performance showed the life story of Krishna. A special ‘Dahi Handi’ was created for children of Budapest to understand the folklore behind the festival.









## KRISHNA PLAY BY CHILDREN



## Women Yoga Conference 9th Oct:

In collaboration with the Hungarian Yoga Teacher's Association, Amrita Sher-Gil held a Yoga Conference at its premises where more than 100 yoga enthusiasts participated. Well known yoga experts delivered lectures & talks, Yoga instructors gave demonstrations in the hall and the Indian Yoga Teacher of the Embassy of India Ms. Babita Wagh conducted a special session on women health issues.



Yoga conference



H.E. Kumar Tuhin, Ambassador of India to Hungary  
Honorable László Kövér, Speaker of the National Assembly of Hungary







# Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

## 9-Days Navratra

Embassy of India & ASCC in partnership with the Indian community in Hungary created a series of 9 days events which comprised of Video talks Shows, Vishnusahasranam Shloka Recitation, Mahalaya, Kalash-Sthapana, Ashtlakshmi, Golu Puja, Mahanavami, Vijayadashami & Kanya Pujan programmes in which the members participated in large numbers from their homes as well as at Cultural Centre's premises. Special Dandiya Nights and Indian Food Festival were also organised. The grand finale was on oct 15th with a colourful 'Ramleela' play by members of Indian diaspora which was enjoyed profusely. Several programmes were live streamed to engage more with those who could not directly take part.

## Capturing The Spirit of Freedom



Marking 75 years of India's Independence & Amrit Mahotsav an exhibition of paintings was organized titled "Capturing the Spirit of Freedom" through some iconic pictures of Indian personalities connected with the Independence struggle like Mahatma Gandhi, Rabindranath Tagore, Sarojini Naidu by notable Hungarian painters Elizabeth Brunner & Sass Brunner in their hometown Nagykanizsa at Thury Gyorgy Museum.



## ITEC & Ayurveda Day Celebrated



On Nov 11, marking 6th Ayurveda Day, 53rd ITEC Day and ICCR Alumni Day, an event was held at the Embassy of India's premises where talks, presentations, interactive sessions & quizzes were held in which ITEC & ICCR Alumni participated, Ayush Scholarship aspirants shared their thoughts and ICCR Alumni Eva Berki & Mariann Adasz performed a Ganga Stuti. Ayurveda Experts from Budapest Rakesh Zope, Beata Bognar, Aniko Kotroczo, Orsolya Plutzer gave talks & presentations. An interactive Ayurveda quiz was also held and books on Ayurveda were given as prizes. ITEC Alumn Melinda Irtl & Eva Veronika Lorincz shared their experiences.



# Diwali Cup Chess Competition







On 21 November Embassy of India participated in the spectacular Diplomatic Spouses of Budapest Fair which was held on at Hotel Intercontinental with great splendour and enthusiasm. Embassy of India participated with great gusto and fervour. Ms Anita Herczegh, wife of President of Hungary was the patron of the event.

The venue was decorated with Indian artifacts and decorations, and a vibrant group presented a Kathak recital



The venue was decorated with Indian artefacts & decorations and a vibrant group Kathak dance was also presented.



## Year 2021 Concluded with Vibrant Christmas Celebrations

During the month of December, the activities of ASCC were spanning the regular classes, collaborative programmes as well as various monthly events for social media like the India Hungary Dialogues, Diaspora Diaries & Kutfo Culture Talks. All three video magazines were specifically highlighting the milestones achieved by India different spheres in the past. This month is especially significant for Kathak, as the teacher collaborated with Bharatnatyam dancer for a high level performance at National Dance Theatre. Special AKAM activities like Mahaparinirvan Diwas, Universal Consciousness Webinar, AKAM Quiz as well as 75 Surya Namaskar projects were given ample publicity & space on social media engaging the diaspora & Hungarian audience.



The year 2021 ended on a positive & vibrant note with a colourful live programme full of music & dance setting the tone for the coming year leading up to the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Celebrations.

**Christmas celebration at the Embassy**



# 10Th Round of India-Hungary Foreign Office Consultations



Foreign Office Consultation - Bilateral meeting with Mr. Péter Szijjártó,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade

**T**he 10th round of India-Hungary Foreign Office Consultations were held on January 19, 2021 in Budapest. The Indian delegation was led by Secretary (West), Shri Vikas Swarup and the Hungarian side was led by Dy. State Secretary for development of Eastern Relations in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Dr. András Baranyi. The Indian delegation also called on Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade H.E, Mr. Peter Szijjarto. Both sides underscored the historically warm and cordial relations, which have received a strong filip following the recent high-level interactions, including the visits of External Affairs Minister (August 2019) and Minister of Jal Shakti (October 2019) of India to Hungary and the visit of Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary to India (January 2020). During the consultations, the two sides reviewed various aspects of bilateral cooperation. Discussions focussed on political, trade

and economic, science and technology, educational and cultural relations. The two sides also exchanged views on regional and international situation of mutual interest and agreed to enhance their cooperation in the multilateral fora. There was a discussion on respective national approaches to mitigate the impact of covid 19 pandemic and on vaccines. The Hungarian side conveyed that they have initiated the process to join the International Solar Alliance and hoped it would be completed at an early date. It was agreed to convene the next meeting of India-Hungary Joint Committee on Economic Cooperation at an early date in 2021. The two sides noted the importance of shooting films in each other's country for boosting tourism, cultural cooperation and people-to-people contacts. It was also agreed to maintain the momentum in bilateral interaction through exchange of visits and regular consultations.





**LEFT** - Deputy State Secretary for Development of Eastern Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade, Dr. András Baranyi, Dr. János Jákó, Head of ASEAN Division and Mr. Máté Kiss, Desk officer for India.  
**RIGHT**- Secretary (West), Shri Vikas Swarup, Ambassador of India, Mr. Kumar Tuhin



**LEFT** - Shri Vikas Swarup, Secretary (West)  
**RIGHT** - Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs & Trade



**LEFT** - Shri Vikas Swarup, Secretary (West)  
**RIGHT** - Dr. András Baranyi, Deputy State Secretary for Development of Eastern Relations



**Foreign Office Consultation**  
Bilateral meeting



## 2. Indian students outreach on 19 February, 2021

A virtual interaction was held by the Embassy with participation of Indian students studying at the Eötvös Lóránd University, Budapest; University of Szeged, University of Pécs and International Business School, Budapest on 19 February, 2021. The educational and consular queries of the Indian students were answered during the interaction.



Online Outreach with Indian students -  
Mr. Sanjeev Manchanda, SS(Pol/Com)



Online Outreach with Indian students

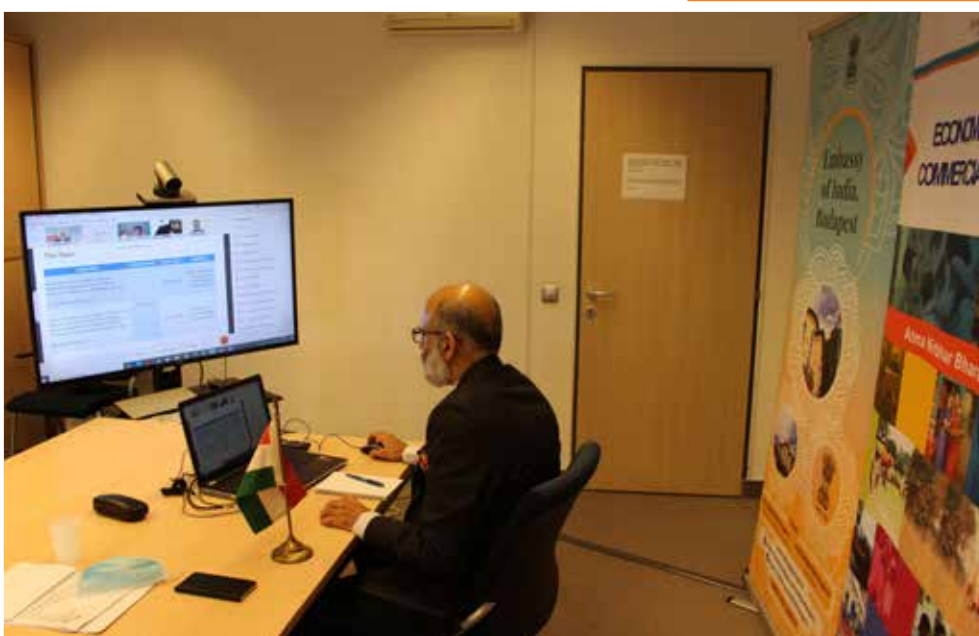


Amrendra Jha; ASO(Cons), Mr. S. Ramji, SS(Cons)/Head of Chancery and  
Ms. Klaudia Kovacs, Marketing Assistant



## 3. Invest India meeting for CEE region

Shri Sanjeev Manchanda, SS(Pol/Com) attended an online interactive investment promotion session organised by Invest India on March 11 for Indian Missions in CEE region.





## 4. Bled Strategic Forum

Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Minister for External Affairs of India participated in the Bled Strategic Forum in Slovenia on 2-3 September 2021. He was a panel member of the forum for Partnership for a Rules-based Order in the Indo-Pacific. On the sidelines of the event Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar met with his Hungarian counterpart, Mr Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



The two foreign ministers met again in New York on the occasion of the 76th UN General Assembly, to attend the Ministerial Meeting of the G4 countries (Japan, Brazil, Germany and India) on UN Security Council Reform on September 22.





# THE TASTE OF FREEDOM

Tracing the elements of 75 years of independence of India in  
**Hungary Dr. Imre Lázár Ph.D.**



If we are looking for inspiring drivers for Indo-Hungarian relations, we often refer to the individual efforts and achievements of those who work to get to know each other better, the milestones of bilateral relations, the different agreements, the high-level visits, foundation of institutions, the mutually beneficial political and trade contacts and the fertilizing effect of the two cultures on each other.

Rarely, however, do we realise that the history of Indo-Hungarian relations is a history of interactions and mutual inspirations in the freedom struggle of the two countries. Some authors find striking parallels and similar sequences in Indian and Hungarian history. For example K.S. Duggal states that a cursory glance through Hungarian history reminds one of several events in the Indian history. After the 1514 Hungarian peasants' revolt the horrific execution of the peasant leader György Dózsa reminds one of Guru Arjan Dev who was also martyred under similar circumstances on 30th May, 1606, by the Mughal Emperor of the day. India's and Hungary's



struggle for independence almost ran in parallel. When India was being repeatedly attacked by invaders from the north and then involved in long-drawn out struggle against the British rule, Hungary was engaged in throwing off the yoke of the Ottomans, the Habsburgs, the Nazi Germans and the Soviet Communists.

If we want to answer the question how Hungary and Hungarians contributed to the Independence Movement of India, I would say that we know some basic facts, however this topic needs further researches. I try to sum up some of them.

The 1848-49 Hungarian Revolution and War of Independence against the Habsburgs had considerable influence on the awakening of the idea of India's independence. After the crushing of the War of Independence, those prominent intellectuals, who took an active part in the Revolution, were persecuted by the Austrian monarchy. Some of them, after severe hardships as a refugee, fled to India, like Theodor Duka and László Berzenczey. With painstaking efforts Duka collected the sources and wrote a biography of Alexander Csoma de Kőrös. He became member of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, he helped considerably in fostering contacts between the Hungarian and the Indian scholars. Berzenczey was sentenced to death after the fall of the Revolution, and for that he had to emigrate. He arrived in India under adventurous circumstances, approaching the country from Russia and Central Asia, crossing the four-five thousand meter high passes as a lonely horse-rider. The Indian newspapers reported the almost unbelievable achievement of the lonely wanderer of Central Asia as a great sensation. Getting acquainted with the life story of these Hungarian freedom fighters, it could also ignite the fire of desire for freedom among Indians.

The heroic freedom struggle of Hungarians was a frequent topic of the 19th century Hungarian writer Mór Jókai. His novels were translated into several languages, so they found their way also to India and spread the idea of freedom among the followers of the rising independent struggle. Rabindranath Tagore knew the novels by Jókai very well and kept them in high esteem. Tagore admired the national unity of the Hungarians in the 1848 revolution and war of independence and found similarities between the situation of the two nations in the fact that both fought for literature in their own language against foreign influence. During his visit to Hungary in 1926 he paid his homage at the memorial of Jókai in Balatonfüred.

Few people know that Mahatma Gandhi's thoughts and philosophical ideas have a Hungarian connection. He specifically drew a lot from Ferenc Deák's passive resistance movement, to which he referred several times in his statements. He mentions the Hungarian thinker as a dreamer of passive resistance. Gandhi understood the essence of non-violent Hungarian resistance through the program of Irish Sinn Féin. In 1904, Arthur Griffith published his political credo *The Resurrection of Hungary*

party program. Ferenc Deák and passive resistance were the examples to follow. After 1849, neo-absolutism arrived in Hungary, and Deák chose the tactic of peaceful rebellion, that is, the complete disregard for state power. This policy led to the 1867 Compromise, which brought "happy times of peace" between former adversaries, the Hungarians, and the Habsburgs. Learning from Deák, the Sinn Féin also encouraged the Irish to refuse to pay taxes, to defy the English language and to avoid open confrontation with British military forces. Gandhi knew the book of Griffith, and used Deák's model against the colonial British.

Several Hungarians had close contacts with the architects of Indian independence, and had mutual impact on each other. Elizabeth Sass Brunner and Elizabeth Brunner nurtured a close friendship with Rabindranath Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi, Sarojini Naidu, Jawaharlal Nehru, S. Radhakrishnan, Indira Gandhi and others. The love of the Brunners for India and her masses inspired those fighting for India's freedom to rediscover the beauties and values of their homeland. Their commitment to the Fight for Independence and its leaders raised the suspicion of British authorities and they were interned between 1942 and 1944. The Indian leaders kept the art of the Brunners in high esteem.

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**"I am sure their sensitive brushes have caught the life and colour of our landscape and the spirit of the human nature in India" – said Rabindranath Tagore. Mahatma Gandhi remarked about their paintings that "I could not fail to notice a faithful reproduction of typical villagers." Similar was the opinion of Jawaharlal Nehru when he wrote them: "Your approach to India has been so different from that of many others that you enable us to glimpse through your pictures much that is not obvious to the eye."**

Ervin Baktay, a leading Hungarian Indologist also had personal contacts with Tagore and Nehru. Baktay's great idea was independence. He turned with deep sympathy throughout his life to the Indian freedom movement. He was almost the first in Europe to paint a correct picture of India's national movement for independence, recognizing its significance for the lives of hundreds of millions. As early as 1921-1922 Baktay wrote two books on Tagore. In 1926 he published a selection of Gandhi's writings. In contrast to the contemporary (1920s-30s) European newspapers that portrayed Gandhi as a dreamer and questioned the *raison d'être* of the principles of satyagraha, Baktay saw Gandhi's human greatness and stated that Gandhi was a practical man and an idealist at the same time. The Mahatma appreciated the selfless work of Baktay, as evidenced by his letter to the Hungarian scholar.





German occupation of Hungary ended in 1945. However, the “liberating” Soviet troops remained in the country. It is the contradiction of history that by the time India won her independence in 1947, Hungary became a member of the Soviet-dominated East European bloc and sustained only a formal independence. During the Cold War, India adopted a foreign policy of not aligning itself with any major power bloc. Hungary had no official relations with the colonial countries prior to World War II, however, after India’s independence many-sided cooperation has grown between the two countries. They established diplomatic relations in 1948, the first Hungarian mission was opened in New Delhi in 1951, the first Indian mission was opened in Budapest in 1956.

1956 was a special year in Indo-Hungarian relations. It was the year of the Tagore Centenary and several Indian cultural events happened in Hungary that time. But 1956 was also the year when the commitment of India and Hungary to freedom was put to the test again. On 23 October, 1956 Revolution broke out in Hungary against the oppressive Stalinist regime. On 4 November Russian troops crushed the independence attempt by force. The Hungarian Revolution had a positive and warm response in India. Indian leaders stood by Hungary repeatedly and openly at many fora, including the UN. Several Hungarians sentenced to death were saved by the personal intervention of Jawaharlal Nehru.

After the suppression of the revolution, Indo-Hungarian relations were determined by the realities of politics. A long-term Trade and Payments Agreement was signed in 1960, which resulted in vigorous trade between the two countries. High ranking state visits from India legitimized the Kádár regime. Indo-Hungarian relations were raised to ambassadorial level in 1959. Institutionalization of political relations logically led to the institutionalization of cultural contacts, too. This process that was characterized by rather direct influence of politics on

cultural relations has culminated in signing of the Cultural Agreement in 1962.

From among different fields of relations cultural contacts developed most rapidly. Generations of eminent Hungarian Indologists laid the foundations of the great respect and admiration Hungarians have for Indian culture, philosophy, art and intellect. Hungary opened a Cultural Centre in New Delhi in 1978 and cultural contacts, formerly determined by politics started to develop on professional basis.

1989 has brought about the change of the political and economic system and real freedom for Hungary. Indo-Hungarian relations could now get rid of the watching eyes of the Soviet Union. After the changes, a parallel reorientation both in Indian and Hungarian foreign policy and trade relations could be observed. Though these changes meant also a challenge for both countries, they could overcome the difficulties. Contacts became closer than ever before. In cultural relations regularly renewed cultural and educational exchange programmes provided frameworks for the cooperation. In 2010 India opened Cultural Centre in Budapest. Several programmes of the two Cultural Centres in New Delhi and Budapest commemorated the important milestones of the fight for freedom of the two countries, like the art exhibition Architects of Freedom – an homage to Indian freedom fighters in 1997 commemorating the 50th anniversary of India’s independence and the commemoration of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution and Freedom Struggle entitled In Search of Freedom and Democracy in 2006.

When we celebrate the 75th Anniversary of India’s independence in the year 2021/2022, we pay our homage to all those who paved the way for the freedom of India. We, happy contemporaries, who live in free countries, should not forget that the fight is not over. As preserving freedom might be a greater task than gaining it. We have to fight for freedom day by day, as the one who have ever experienced the taste of freedom, can never live without it.



# Farewell to Hungary

On 18th November, I completed exactly 3 years of our stay in this beautiful country, Hungary. I recall having arrived here at night and it was a very cold night three years ago and for many weeks after my arrival here, I was trying to feel my way around and slowly organised myself in the office and at home, trying to meet people, meet other ambassadors to understand this great country and its people. And also to find friends among the local Indians and Hungarians, who could hold our hands and give us sage advice.



After a few months, I had gone to the Citadella and it was there standing on the hilltop and looking down on the meandering Danube with all the beautiful bridges, decorating it and the Parliament building left like a jewel, I realised how fortunate I was to have been assigned to this country.

As I complete my tour of duty here in this country, I stand here to say farewell to Hungary. I acknowledge and thank each one of you who have come and joined me today for our friendship and for helping me to do and accomplish whatever I could, in these three years.



Some of you have travelled from other cities here, outside Budapest and I am truly grateful for your kind gesture. I use the word 'accomplish' with a sense of unfulfilment and incompleteness, because when I look back, I do feel that there was so much that could have been done, if the pandemic hadn't taken away almost half of my tenure here. But this is a global problem.

Still, we had the visits of our foreign ministers to Hungary and to New Delhi. The trade and investment ties are growing, cultural interactions have strengthened, Hungary has already announced its decision to join the international solar alliance, The foreign office consultations and Science and Technology committee meetings were held and there were many agreements that are in the pipeline and are being worked upon, which should also get concluded in the near future.

Our cultural centre was working actively even during the pandemic times in an online mode to keep our friends who come to attend yoga, dance classes, music and hindi lessons, and to keep all the friends connected to us.

The Embassy also worked hard to make this a place that belongs to and which is at the service of all Indians. We started our monthly news letter and had so many Indian festivals celebrated together with you all.

I feel tempted to list some of this, because it is natural to reflect on a time that I spent here and some of the important milestones. But perhaps it is better for people who have gathered here or who

will come after me to judge and evaluate the work and legacy.

My wife Deepa and I have been so touched by the goodwill and wishes that we have received over the last few weeks. Many of you have already hosted us, invited us to your homes, have sent us goodwill messages and all of you have come here today to answer the call of friendship. Today is my turn to say thank you because it was due to your cooperation and help, because of your love and kindness that I have been able to stand here today and look back with pride and happiness at my three years here.

I, of course, begin by thanking my wife Deepa, who has always stood by me, taking on different roles, including those which just came her way, with radiating a warmth and kindness all around her. I would also like to acknowledge my officers Ramji, Tanuja and Dewani for implementing my decisions, sometimes conveyed to you at very short notice and for all the good work that we did together and I wish you the best with all your future endeavours.

Thankyou also to my remarkable staff, especially my personal staff Ankur and Pratibha in the Embassy for ironing out all issues and keeping my office running smoothly. Even when times got tough and frustrating, you never let the office get the better of you.

And I should never forget to thank Miklos, my chauffeur, who was always with us taking us to various venues on both official and personal engagements and taking on multifarious roles at times including that of a translator and troubleshooter.

Each one of you who have come today and many of you who could not make it today, but have sent their wishes and many who have already completed their stay in Hungary and moved on to their next stations, who were all very very special and dear to us.

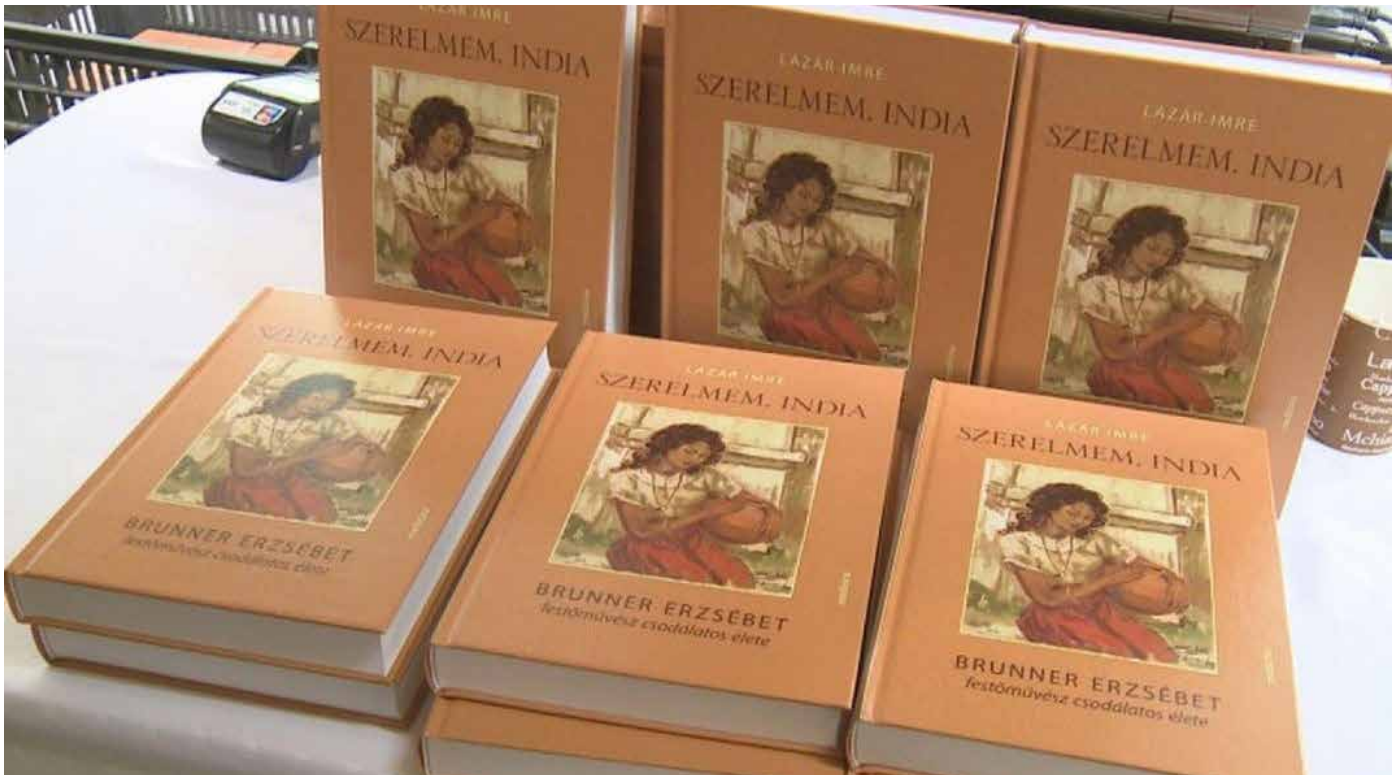
I will indeed, carry with me, the memories of this wonderful land, of Hungary's thermal baths, of its wonderful cuisine, of porcelain, of embroidery, of castles, of grasslands. Serving in Hungary has been a great honour and privilege. This country not only gave me and my family another home but added a wealth of knowledge to my career.

And you know, India is a land where heart is king, so hopefully we will see you there. I would like to conclude by quoting a few sentences in Sanskrit, which is one of the oldest languages of the world and in which some of the most profound thoughts are kept and its English meaning is 'Just as when the fruit ripens, and is ready to spread fragrance and its time to provide vitality and nourishment to the world, it separates from the tree effortlessly'. Similarly, prepare me to painlessly separate from my attachments when the right time comes. So, when we leave this place, we always have the fragrance of friendship with us. Thankyou very much, Namaste and Dhanyavad.



# Szerelmem, India

Dr. Lázár Imre India-kutató, a Delhi Magyar Tájékoztatói és Kulturális Központ korábbi igazgatójának könyve Brunner Erzsébet festőművésről



Hiánypótló könyv jelent meg novemberben Brunner Erzsébet, a jeles festőművész életéről, Szerelmem, India címmel. A Magyarországon, Nagykanizsán született, de élete nagy részében Indiában alkotó festőművésről eddig nem volt olvasható magyar nyelven átfogó mű. A szerző, Dr. Lázár Imre a delhi Magyar Kulturális Központ korábbi igazgatója a nemzetközi kapcsolatok kutatója, ezen belül elsősorban a kulturális diplomáciával és a különböző kultúrák közötti kommunikációval foglalkozik. A delhi Dzsaváharlál Néhrú Egyetemen védte meg Ph.D. értekezését, amelyben a magyar-indiai kulturális diplomácia történetét dolgozta fel. Összesen

11 évet töltött diplomataként Indiában, Brunner Erzsébettel szoros személyes kapcsolatot ápolt. Tevékenyen részt vett a művésznő hagyatékának magyar és indiai múzeumok részére történő elosztásában. Több Brunner-kiállításnak volt kurátora, a Brunnerek életéről és művészetéről számos munkát publikált. A szerző a festőnő elbeszélései, a tőle származó és róla szóló dokumentumok, valamint a festői életmű részletes tanulmányozása alapján minden eddiginél teljesebb életrajzot tárt az olvasó elé, bemutatva az életút és az életmű rendkívüli összetettségét, sokrétűségét és egyedi voltát.

(Forrás: <https://culture.hu/hu/delhi/hirek/szerelmem-india>)



## Az Amrita Sher-Gil Kulturális Központ a könyvvel kapcsolatban fölött néhány kérdést a szerzőnek.

Dr. Lázár Imre válaszait magyar és angol nyelven alább közöljük.

### 1. MILYEN ÉRZÉS MOST, HOGY ENNYI ÉVNYI KUTATÁS ÉS KITARTÁS UTÁN MEGSZÜLETETT A KÖNYV?

Örömet és megkönnyebbülést érzek. Ez a könyv nagyon lassan készült, és rengeteg munkát igényelt. Egy régi adósságot törlesztettem vele. Már harminc éve annak, hogy elhatároztam, könyvet írok Brunner Erzsébetről, erről a csodálatos művészről és nagyszerű emberről, akivel Indiában találkoztam. Ott ismertem meg fantasztikus, szinte hihetetlennek tűnő élettörténetét.

Hosszú évekig éltem a közvetlen közelében. Nap, mint nap találkoztunk és rengeteget beszélgettünk. Nagyon tiszteltem és szerettem őt, ő pedig a bizalmába fogadott, amikor a beszélgetéseink során olyan titkait fedte fel előttem, amelyeket talán senki mással nem osztott meg. Fontosnak tartottam, hogy ebben a könyvben megőrizsem ezeknek a beszélgetéseknek a summáját, ahogyan elmesélte nekem az életét, megosztotta velem a gondolatait édesanyjáról, a művészet értelméről, a lélek mélységeiről és sok más témáról. Brunner Erzsébet életéről eddig nem jelent meg magyar nyelven átfogó mű. Ezért tartottam parancsoló feladatnak, el nem szalasztható lehetőségnek, hogy ezt a rendkívül különleges életet minél pontosabb dokumentáljam. Könyvemmel azt a célt tűztem ki magam elé, hogy ezt a nem mindennapi művészt a szélesebb magyar közönség is megismerje. Könyvem szándékom szerint egyszerre érdekfeszítő olvasmány és rengeteg új adatot tartalmazó



dokumentumtár. Nagyon örülök, hogy ezt a nagy munkát végül sikerült befejeznem.

### 2. HA VÁLASZTANIA KELLENE, MELYIK MUNKAFÁZIS VOLT A LEGKÖNYVEBB ÉS MELYIK A LEGNEHEZEBB, MIT MONDANA?

Ahogy említettem, ennek a könyvnek az elkészítése nagyon bonyolult, összetett feladat volt. A munka sok fázisból állt. Ezeknek a munkafázisoknak mindegyike nagyon sok energiát igényelt, de egyben nagy örömet is okozott. Ezért nem úgy tekintek vissza az elvégzett munkára, hogy az megterhelő lett volna. Nyolc éven át dokumentáltam a Brunner Erzsébettel folytatott beszélgetéseket, a legtöbbet emlékezetből. Szerettem volna minél teljesebb életrajzot tárni az olvasó elé, ezért könyvembe beépítettem évtizedek

óta végzett kutatásaim eredményeit, amelyeket Brunner Erzsébet különböző hazai és indiai gyűjteményekben őrzött gazdag hagyatékából merítettem. Hatalmas mennyiségű, családtagokkal és barátokkal folytatott levelezést tanulmányoztam át, végigolvastam a hagyatékban maradt életrajz-töredékeket, kéziratos feljegyzéseket, kortársak visszaemlékezéseit. Az így kapott információ-darabkákat azután folyamatos narratívává kellett összefűzőm. Mindezt össze kellett vetnem a történelmi tényekkel, ellenőriznem minden egyes adat hitelességét. A munka során arra a következtetésre jutottam, hogy Brunner Erzsébet elbeszélését minden esetben igazolták az általam tanulmányozott történelmi források. A narratívája tehát teljesen hitelesnek tekinthető. A legnehezebb feladat

## Szerelmem, India

talán az volt, hogy ezeket a különböző helyzetekben, különböző időben elhangzott beszélgetéseket és a többi kis mozaikdarabkát egységes egészzé gyúrjam össze, mégpedig úgy, hogy benne legyen a közlés frissessége, spontaneitása. Remélem, hogy ebből a nagy munkából az olvasó semmit nem vesz észre, és az egész szöveg úgy hat, mintha Brunner Erzsébet ajkán éppen abban a pillanatban fogalmazódnának meg a mondatok.

### 3. MIT TART A BRUNNER-ÉLETMŰ LEGFONTOSABB RÉSZÉNEK?

Brunner Erzsébet élete regényes fordulatokban bővelkedik, méltán tarthat számot az egzotikus és kalandos történetek kedvelőinek figyelmére. Ez egy fantasztikus, szinte hihetetlennek tűnő élettörténet. Kalandregénybe, vagy filmvászonra illő. Remélem,

hogy az olvasót mindvégig lebilincseli. Több mint kilencven éve annak, hogy az akkor 19 éves szobrásznövendék édesanyjával, az akkor már sikeres Sass Brunner Erzsébet festőművésszel otthagya a magyarországi biztos életet, az ígéretes karriert, és szó szerint világgá ment. Mindenki örültségnek, felelőtlen kalandnak tartotta, hogy két nő elegendő pénz, nyelvtudás és kapcsolatok nélkül nekiinduljon a világnak. Eleinte még talán ők maguk sem tudták, hogy mit vállalnak, de valamiellenállhatatlan erővonzotta őket egy olyan helyre, ahol megvalósíthatják művészi elképzeléseiket. Szicíliában egy álom mutatta meg nekik az utat, hogy Indiába kell menniük, egyenesen Rabindranáth Tagór Nobel-díjas költőhöz. Hiába tornyosult előttük ezer akadály, a csoda megtörtént: végül eljutottak Indiába. Nem csak hogy

eljutottak oda, de ott találtak igazán önmagukra, meglelték lelki békéjüket. A művészetük kivirágzott, sikeres festők lettek. Szárnyára vette őket a világsiker: Japánban, Amerikában, Angliában állítottak ki, ők azonban visszatértek választott hazájukba, Indiába, és ott élték le az életüket.

Brunner Erzsébet a 20. század sorsfordító eseményeinek volt tanúja. Gyermekként élte át az első világháborút, megtapasztalta a háború utáni gazdasági, társadalmi, erkölcsi és szellemi válságot. Indiában tanúja volt a felszabadító mozgalom küzdelmeinek, szoros kapcsolatot tartott annak vezetőivel. Emlékezéseiből eddig nem ismert részleteket tudhatunk meg ezeknek a nagy történelmi alakoknak a jelleméről és a velük kapcsolatos eseményekről.





Értékes megfigyelései vannak a függetlenség előtti India társadalmáról, emlékei nyomán bepillanthatunk egy letűnt világ, a maharádzsaudvarok életébe. A szabadságharcosokkal való rokonszenvéért a második világháború idején megtapasztalta a brit hatalom bosszúját, mert idegen ország állampolgáraként internálótáborba zárták. Átélté India függetlenné válását és felosztásának tragédiáját. A független Indiában állampolgárságot kért és kapott, teljes lendülettel csatlakozott az új, független ország művészi, szellemi életének megteremtéséhez. Ott volt az új indiai művészet megszületésénél, és részese volt a 20. századi India intellektuális mozgalmainak. Emlékei aranybányát jelenthetnek a történészek számára.

A könyv főszereplői, Brunner Erzsébet és az édesanyja, Sass Brunner Erzsébet is nagy formátumú, rendkívüli művészek voltak. Sass Brunner Erzsébet festői munkásságára meghatározóak voltak a 20. sz. eleji életreform-mozgalmak, és az azokból fakadó szellemi inspirációk. Látta, hogyan keresnek kiutat a magyar művészek és értelmiségiek a nyugati civilizáció válságából, az iparosodás, a természetkárosítás, a társadalmi egyenlőtlenségek növekedése, háborúk okozta traumákból. Próbált új életmódbeli és művészi utakat találni a vegetarizmus, az élet kioltásától, állatok bántalmazásától való tartózkodással, a böjttel, az aszkétizmussal, a keleti vallások és filozófia tanulmányozásával. Egyáltalán, az anyagiság helyett a szellemi értékek előtérbe helyezésével. Brunner Erzsébet elsősorban portréfestő volt, a modelljeihez pszichológiai módon közelített. Spirituális arcképeket alkotott, amelyek fő jellemzője az volt, hogy a külső, fizikai megjelenés visszaadásánál fontosabbnak tartotta, hogy megragadja a modell lelkét, elsősorban a szemek érzékeny ábrázolásán keresztül. Az 1950-es évektől a portréfestés mellett a vallási

tárgyú, főleg buddhista ihletésű képek domináltak a művészetét. Brunner Erzsébet a modern spiritualitás kifejezése érdekében sokszor egyéni ikonográfiát alkotott. Művészetében az Európából magával hozott eszközöket alkalmazta, és nem vette át az indiai művészet formai elemeit. Szellemében azonban munkásságát teljes mértékben a keleti spirituális tartalom határozta meg. Az európai örökség és az indiai kultúra hatása művészetében szintézist alkot, és ez teszi képeit egyedülállóvá.

#### **4. MI ENNEK A KÖNYVNEK A FŐ ÜZENETE A NAGYKÖZÖNSÉGBŐL AZOK SZÁMÁRA, AKIK KEVESE TUDNAK INDIÁRÓL ÉS A BRUNNEREKRŐL?**

Brunner Erzsébet életét két világfelfogás, a racionalitást előtérbe helyező nyugati és a spirituális értékeket fontosabbnak tartó keleti szemlélet pólusai határozták meg. Élete az illúzióvesztés, a fájdalmas belső keresés, a spirituális tökéletesség iránti vágy és a megtalált harmónia eksztatikus boldogsága útját járja végig.

A könyv különösen érdekes lehet G. Hajnóczy Rózsa Bengáli tűz c. regényének ismerői számára, hiszen az is Indiában, Sántinikétanban játszódik, nagyjából ugyanabban az időben, amikor a Brunnerek is ott voltak, és ők is felbukkannak a regény lapjain. Magyarországon sokan ebből a regényből szereztek Indiával kapcsolatos ismereteiket. Pedig a könyv sok tekintetben torzképet fest Indiáról és neveltségessé teszi a Brunnereket kinézetük és életmódjuk miatt. Érdekes lehet az olvasóknak a kontraszt, hogy a Brunnerek teljesen másként viszonyulnak Indiához és az indiaiakhoz, mint G. Hajnóczy Rózsa és a férje, Germanus Gyula professzor. A Szerelmem, India című könyv igazságot szolgáltat a Brunnereknek, és helyreállítja azt a torz képet, amelyet a Bengáli tűz fest róluk.

Brunner Erzsébet nem hitt a civilizációk kibékíthetlenségében. Életművének üzenete, hogy a különböző kultúrákból érkezőknek együttérzéssel kell viseltetniük egymás iránt, hogy a művészet át tudja hidalni a kultúrák és hitvallások különbségeit. Egy olyan úton járt, amely sok tekintetben ma is kiutat mutat a Nyugat civilizációs problémáiból. Könyvemmel szerettem volna emléket állítani Brunner Erzsébet India iránt érzett szenvedélyes szerelmének. Ez a szerelem civilizációk közötti kapukat nyit ki, és segít megismerni az olvasónak India valódi arcát.

#### **5. MIK A JÖVŐBELI TERVEI, MIN DOLGOZIK MOST?**

Sok terv van a tarsolyomban, de hogy ezek közül végül mi valósul meg, az a jövő titka. Szeretném folytatni a magyar-indiai kulturális kapcsolatok történetének szisztematikus feldolgozását, és a nagyközönség elé tárni a történet olyan ismeretlen, vagy elfeledett lapjait, amelyekről még semmit sem, vagy csak nagyon keveset tudunk. Nagy hiányosságnak tartom, hogy a kapcsolataink történetének szereplői közül leginkább a férfiak teljesítményét ismerjük, pedig kutatásaim során számos olyan nő munkásságával is találkoztam, akiknek a teljesítménye egyáltalán nem marad el a férfiaké mögött, sőt, Indiát olyan sajátosan női nézőpontból szemléltek, amely nagyban hozzájárul ismereteink gyarapításához. Brunner Erzsébet élettörténetének a feldolgozása is ebbe a kutatási irányba illik bele. A jövőben ezzel a területtel szeretnék még behatóbban foglalkozni. Egyszer talán majd lesz időm megírni annak a gyönyörű tizenegy évnél az élményeit, tapasztalatait is, amelyeket Indiában töltöttem kulturális diplomataként.

**Szerelmem, India**





# ON THE OCCASION OF THE INAUGURATION OF THE BOOK “INDIA, MY LOVE”

WRITTEN BY DR IMRE LAZAR, WE ASKED A FEW QUESTIONS FROM THE AUTHOR ABOUT HIS WORK.

## 1. HOW DOES IT FEEL NOW THAT THE BOOK IS BORN AFTER SO MANY YEARS OF RESEARCH & PERSEVERANCE?

I feel joy and relief. Writing this book took a lot of time and a lot of work. I repaid an old debt with it. It has been thirty years since I decided to write a book about Elizabeth Brunner, this wonderful artist and great person I have met in India. It was there that I learned about her fantastic, almost unbelievable life story. I lived in her immediate vicinity for many years. We met almost every day and talked a lot. I respected and loved her very much, and she put her trust in me as she revealed secrets to me during our conversations that she might not have shared with anyone else. I found it important to preserve the sum of these conversations in this book as she told me about her life, shared with me her thoughts on her mother, the meaning of art, the depths of the soul, and many other topics.

So far, no comprehensive work on the life of Elizabeth Brunner has been published in Hungarian. That is why I considered it a commanding task, an opportunity not to be missed, to document this extremely special life as accurately as possible. With my book, I set myself the goal of making this unusual artist known to a wider Hungarian audience. My book is intended to be both an interesting reading and an inventory of facts and new data about the life and work of Elizabeth Brunner. I am very happy that I finally managed to finish this great job.

## 2. IF YOU HAD TO CHOOSE, WHICH PHASE OF WORK, WHICH PHASE WAS THE EASIEST AND WHICH WAS THE HARDEST



## PART, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

As I mentioned, making this book was a very complicated, complex task. The work consisted of many phases. Each of these work phases required a lot of energy, but it was also a great pleasure for me. That's why I don't look back the work done that it would have been stressful. I documented my conversations with Elizabeth Brunner for eight years, most of them from memory. I wanted to present the fullest possible biography to the reader, so I incorporated into my book the results of my research over decades, drawn from the rich legacy of Elizabeth Brunner in various Indian and Hungarian collections. I studied her huge amount of correspondence with family members and friends, read through the fragmental autobiographies left in the legacy, manuscript notes, and recollections of contemporaries. From the pieces of information I got in this way, I had to weave the story into a continuous narrative. I had to compare all this with the historical facts, to check the authenticity of each piece of data. In the course of my work, I came to the conclusion that the

narration of Elizabeth Brunner was in all cases substantiated by the historical sources I studied. Her narrative can therefore be considered completely authentic. Perhaps the most difficult task was to fold these conversations in different situations at different times and the other small pieces of mosaic into a single whole, so that the freshness and spontaneity of the communication was included. I hope that the reader will not notice anything from this great work, and that the whole text will seem as if the sentences are being formulated on the lips of Elizabeth Brunner at that very moment.

## 3. WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE BRUNNERS OEUVRE?

The life of Elizabeth Brunner abounds in novel twists and turns, and is worthy of the attention of lovers of exotic and adventurous stories. It's a fantastic, wonderful life story. It is suitable for an adventure novel or movie screen. I hope it captivates the reader all along. More than ninety years ago, mother and daughter left



their promising career in Hungary, and literally went into the world. Everyone thought it was madness, an irresponsible adventure for two women to start without enough money, language skills and connections. At first, perhaps they themselves did not know what to do, but some irresistible force drew them to a place where they could realize their artistic ideas. In Sicily, a dream showed Elizabeth the way to go to India, straight to the Nobel Prize laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore. Thousands of obstacles stood in front of them, but the miracle happened: they finally got to India. Not only did they get there, but they found their peace of mind there. Their art flourished, they became successful painters. They were also on the wing of world success: they exhibited in Japan, America, England, but they returned to their chosen homeland, India, and lived their lives there.

Elizabeth Brunner witnessed the great turning points of the 20th century. As a child, she experienced the First World War, the post-war economic, social, moral and spiritual crisis. In India, she witnessed the freedom struggle and maintained close contact with its leaders. From her recollections we learn hitherto unknown details about the character of these great historical figures and the events related to them. She has valuable observations of pre-independence Indian society, her memories give us a glimpse into the life of a vanished world, the courts of the Maharajas. For her sympathy with the freedom fighters, she experienced the revenge of the British authorities during World War II because she was locked up in an internment camp as a citizen of a foreign country. She experienced the independence of India and the tragedy of the Partition. She applied for and obtained citizenship in independent India, joining in full force to create the artistic, intellectual life of the new independent country. She was there at the birth of new Indian art and was part of the intellectual movements of 20th century India. Her memories can be a goldmine for historians.

The protagonists of the book, Elizabeth Brunner, and her mother, Elizabeth Sass

Brunner, were talented artists. Elizabeth Sass Brunner was inspired by the life reform movements of the early 20th century. She saw Hungarian artists and intellectuals looking for a way out of the crisis of Western civilization, the trauma caused by industrialization, the damage caused to nature, the rise of social inequalities and wars. She tried to find new lifestyle and artistic ways by practicing vegetarianism, abstaining from taking life and abusing animals, fasting, asceticism, and studying Eastern religions and philosophy, by prioritizing spiritual values instead of materiality. Elizabeth Brunner was primarily a portrait painter, approaching her models in a psychological way. She created spiritual portraits, the main feature of which was that she considered it more important to capture the soul of the model than the reproduction of the external, physical appearance. From the 1950s onwards, in addition to portrait painting, her art was dominated by religious, mostly Buddhist images. She often created individual iconography to express modern spirituality. In her art, she used the tools she brought with her from Europe and did not take over the formal elements of Indian art. However, her work was entirely determined by the spiritual content of the East. The influence of European heritage and Indian culture forms a synthesis in her art, which makes her paintings unique.

#### **4. WHAT IS THE MAIN MESSAGE OF THIS BOOK TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC WHO KNOW LITTLE ABOUT INDIA AND THE BRUNNERS?**

Elizabeth Brunner's life was defined by the poles of two worldviews, the Western approach to rationality and the Eastern approach to spiritual values. Her life travels the path of loss of illusion, painful inner search, desire for spiritual perfection, and ecstatic happiness of the harmony found.

The book may be of particular interest for those who know Rózsa G. Hajnóczy's novel *Fire of Bengal*. The story of this novel takes place in Shantiniketan, India, at about the same time when the Brunners

were also there. Many people in Hungary gained their knowledge of India from this novel. Yet the book paints a distorted picture of India in many ways and also ridicules the Brunners for their outlook and way of living. It may be interesting to read the contrast that the Brunners treat India and the Indians completely differently than Rózsa G. Hajnóczy and her husband, Prof. Gyula Germanus. The book *India, My Love* gives truth to the Brunners and restores the distorted image that the *Fire of Bengal* paints about them.

Elizabeth Brunner did not believe in the conflict of civilizations. The message of her lifework is that those from different cultures must have compassion for each other so that art can bridge the differences between cultures and creeds. She trod on a path that, in many ways, still shows a way out of our problems of Western civilization. With my book, I wanted to commemorate Elizabeth Brunner's passionate love for India. This love opens the gates between civilizations and helps the reader get to know the real face of India.

#### **5. WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS, WHAT YOU ARE WORKING ON NOW?**

There are many plans in my bag, but what is ultimately realized is the secret of the future. I would like to continue the systematic research of the history of Indo-Hungarian cultural relations, and to present to the general public those unknown or forgotten pages of the story about which we know nothing or very little. I consider it a great shortcoming that we know the performance of men the most in the history of our relations, although in my research I have encountered the work of many women whose performance does not lag behind men at all, and even looked at India from such a specific female perspective that enrich our knowledge. Writing this book on the life of Elizabeth Brunner also fits into this line of research. I would like to examine this area even more in the future. One day, maybe I will have time to write about the experiences of the beautiful eleven years I spent in India as a cultural diplomat.





# Classical Dance Kathak

**I**n India there are eight classical forms of dance and Kathak is one of them. It was originated in northern India. The word Kathak comes from the Sanskrit word 'Katha' which means story. In Kathak dance the person who presents this dance form we call them 'Kathakar' and 'Kathakar' is one who tells the story by their facial expressions, body movements and footwork with music and songs. 'Kathakars' communicate their dance with stories from the great epics and ancient mythology.

## **HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF KATHAK**

Kathak can be divided into following three periods.

1. Ancient period
2. Medieval period
3. Modern period

### **(Ancient or Temple period)**

In ancient times people used to do Kathak in temple. Kathak dance was performed in front of the deities and gods. Kathakar interpreted stories from ancient Hindu mythology. The story-teller always used songs and music to do the Kathak dance in this period.

### **(Medieval or Court period)**

Kathak was introduced as a form of entertainment in the courts of the Hindu kings. In this period the development of Kathak started as a distinct style of form. The major part of the themes centred on stories of Radha Krishna. And these themes were developed as in dance or drama on the life of Krishna.

When the Mughal period came, the Mughal emperors appropriated Kathak dance and introduced it into their courts. In this period





they performed to entertain the people so they introduced few new things in Kathak like thumri , khayal , dadra , qawalis, ghazals so that people enjoyed watching the dance more.

### (Modern period)

In the modern period so much facilities are available like stage, light, recorded music and live musicians whatever we need everything is available in this period. In this modern times, performers travel individually or in groups to present performances. The Indian government has also helped in promoting this dance form through the institutions like Sangeet Natak Akademi in Delhi and ICCR (Indian Council for Cultural Relations) has developed a structured method to promote this rich tradition all over the world .There is also another institution in India called Kathak Kendra where this dance form is taught & performed on a huge scale. This institution is one of the biggest institution in the world. Teachers & performers also promote this form through their private institutions which has helped the spread of the finer nuances of this dance form all over the world.

## ABHISHEK KHICHI

Kathak Teacher Cum Performer



### GHARANAS

The word Gharana means house or family and it means the house or lineage of the teacher. It is linked to the very ancient concept of the Guru Shishya Parampara (Teacher-Student Tradition) . The different styles established by the Gurus are known as Gharanas . Kathak can be divided according to the three eminent Gharanas as established by the Gurus– Jaipur , Benaras and Lucknow . Now a few lines of Jaipur Gharana..

### JAIPUR GHARANA

According to the records the earliest name in living memory is of Bhanuji who was a devotee of Lord Shiva. The origin was 150 years ago , started by a legend . It is said that Bhanuji learnt the Tandava( cosmic dance of Lord Shiva) from a saint and continued to teach his son Maloji and so on . The genealogies of the different families show in some cases it has been a family profession and the successive generations have remained loyal to the profession taking pride in the pursuit of its excellence .It is said that Kanhulalji went to Vrindavan and learnt the dances of lord Krishna, where he enriched his style differently with the graceful aspect of dance as 'Lasya' . He passed his teaching to his sons . Among others, Dulharam ji is one of the famous names who got great appreciation .He went to Jaipur and settled there. As an expert in Shiv Tandav , he also mastered the 'Lasya' aspect .He become well known as Girdharilal ji , although his name was Dulha ji .

### COSTUMES

Followers of different Gharanas adorn as many colors as possible in the costumes and make a long Teeka( mark) on the forehead with hundreds of ankle bells (ghunghroos) on the ankles . The ghunghroos help a Kathak dancer to give pleasant sound while dancing, giving harmony & a musical atmosphere.

### DANCE STYLE OF JAIPUR GHARANA

The outstanding feature of the Jaipur Gharana is that they perform with much power and strength. The Jaipur Gharana looks very energetic and forceful . The rhythmic nuance, variety in long Parans

( long musical composition with Tabla or Pakhawaj) are a hallmark of Jaipur Gharana . Hari prasad ji , Hanuman prasad ji and Narayan Prasad ji, Pt Kundan Lal Gangani , Durga Lal and Devi Lal excelled in bolder work ,variety, fluency, expressiveness and adopted in skillful presentation of Jaipur Gharana. Pt Chand Girdhar Chand , Pt Rajendra Gangani ji , Shri Harish Gangani, Smt Geetanjali Lal and Abhimanyu Lal are few names who are very famous in Jaipur Gharana . These artists are the iconic names promoting Jaipur Gharana form of Kathak in India and abroad.

Abhishek Khichi

## हिन्दी - एक प्रेम कथा

भारतीय संस्कृति की गिनती दुनिया की सबसे पुरानी संस्कृतियों में होती है। सैकड़ों साल यह विशेष और सुंदर संस्कृति दुनिया भर में बहुत लोगों को आकर्षित करती आ रही है। हंगेरियन लोग भी भारतीय संस्कृति में गहरी रुचि लेते हैं। हम भारतीय फिल्मों देखते हैं तथा भारतीय दूतावास के सांस्कृतिक केंद्र में नृत्य या संगीत सीखते हैं। इसके अलावा हम रेस्तराँ में भारतीय भोजन खा सकते हैं और अलग-अलग दुकानों से पारंपरिक भारतीय कपड़े भी खरीद सकते हैं। मेरे खयाल से सबसे महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि आजकल लोगों की रुचि भारतीय संस्कृति में ही नहीं, बल्कि भारतीय जीवन में भी होती है। यही कारण होगा कि हमारे देश, हंगरी में हिन्दी बोलने वालों की संख्या लगातार बढ़ती जा रही है।

मेरा नाम बेंत्सै फुश्तोश है और मैं बुदापैश्त के प्रसिद्ध ELTE विश्वविद्यालय में पाँच साल से हिन्दी भाषा पढ़ता हूँ। मैं बचपन से भारतीय संस्कृति में रुचि लेता हूँ। जब मैं छोटा था, मुझे धार्मिक किंवदंतियाँ और कथाएँ पसंद थीं। माध्यमिक स्कूल के तीसरे साल में मैंने किसी सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम के दौरान प्राचीन भारत के इतिहास और साहित्य के बारे में एक प्रस्तुति दी थी। इन सालों में मेरी जिज्ञासा बढ़ती जा रही थी, और मैं सोचने लगा कि मैं भारत का इतिहास, साहित्य, संस्कृति ही नहीं, बल्कि भारतीय लोगों को भी समझना चाहता हूँ। चूँकि कोई दूर संस्कृति समझने की एक ही चाबी है—भाषा। इसलिए स्वाभाविक था कि माध्यमिक स्कूल में पढ़ने के बाद मैं ELTE विश्वविद्यालय के भारतीय अध्ययन विभाग में हिन्दी और संस्कृत भाषाएँ पढ़ूँगा।

मुझे शुरू से ही हिन्दी बहुत अच्छी लगने लगी थी। बचपन से लेकर मैं स्वयं और मेरा रुझान भी बदल गया है—प्रारंभ में मेरी अधिक रुचि इतिहास में थी, लेकिन आजकल हिन्दी भाषा तथा साहित्य ज्यादा पसंद करता हूँ। हिन्दी साहित्य से मेरी पहली मुलाकात विश्वविद्यालय के प्रथम साल में हुई थी। हंगरी में हिन्दी दिवस हर साल धूम-धाम से मनाया जाता है तथा इस अवसर पर विभाग के छात्र-छात्राएँ कविताएँ सुनाते या नाटक करते हैं। इसी साल हमने हिन्दी के महालेखक भारतेन्दु हरिश्चंद्र का अंधेर नागरी नामक नाटक किया। नाटक के तीन मुख्य पात्र हैं और मैंने इनमें से चौपट राजा की भूमिका निभाई। इस अवसर से मैं हर हिन्दी दिवस समारोह में शामिल होता हूँ और मंच पर भी उतरता हूँ। हिन्दी दिवस समारोह के अलावा विश्वविद्यालय और भारतीय दूतावास में हर साल बहुत सारे सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम होते हैं जिनमें भाग लेते हुए हमें भारत की संस्कृति और भाषाओं के बारे में जानकारियाँ मिलती हैं। मैं इन कार्यक्रमों में से दो बहुत विशेष तथा रोचक अवसर की बात करना चाहूँगा। २०१६ में हिन्दी की मशहूर लेखिका ममता कालिया हंगरी आई और उन्होंने दूतावास में अपनी कहानी सुनाई। कहानी सुनकर कार्यक्रम में उपस्थित लोग लेखिका के साथ थोड़ी-सी बातचीत कर सके। दूसरा विशेष कार्यक्रम इस पतझड़ हुआ। यह एक तरह का ऑनलाइन वेबईन्टर था जिसके दौरान हिन्दी प्रेमी लोगों को चार प्रसिद्ध हिन्दी की लेखिकाओं से मिलने का मौका मिला। मुझे ये दो अवसर बहुत अच्छे लगे क्योंकि हिन्दी भाषा के अलावा साहित्य भी प्रस्तुत किया गया था और उनके द्वारा हमें भारत और हिन्दी साहित्य की छवि दिखाई गई।



हमारे यहाँ हंगरी में एक कहावत है—रजितनी भाषाएँ बोलते हो, उतने ही आदमियों के बराबर हो। मैं इस कहावत से बिल्कुल सहमत हूँ, क्योंकि हिन्दी भाषा बोल तथा समझकर मैं नई तरह के साहित्य और फिल्मी कला से मिल सकता हूँ और इसके परिणामस्वरूप मेरे दृष्टिकोण भी बदल जा रहा है। हिन्दी पढ़कर मुझे ऐसा लगता है कि मेरी आँखों के सामने एक नई और दिलचस्प दुनिया खुल जाती है। हिन्दी भाषा और साहित्य का प्रेम मेरे जीवन का इतना महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा बन गया है कि बिना हिन्दी में अपना भविष्य की कल्पना कर नहीं पाता। विश्वविद्यालय के मास्टर स्टडीस खत्म करने के बाद मैं अकादमिक करियर बनाना चाहता हूँ और हिन्दी साहित्य पर शोध करना चाहता हूँ।

हिन्दी भाषा सीखने में मुझे बहुत मजा आता है, लेकिन अफसोस की बात यह है कि हंगेरियन लोगों को हिन्दी सीखना आसान नहीं है। सबसे पहले हमें देवनागरी लिपि सीखनी है, फिर उच्चारण, व्याकरण और शब्दों के प्रयोग पर बड़ा ध्यान रखना है। पर ऐसी कठिनाई के बावजूद मेरा पूरा विश्वास है कि हिन्दी सीखकर मैंने सही रास्ता चुना था और जब मैं भारतवासियों के साथ बातचीत करके हिन्दी बोलता हूँ तो यह हमेशा सिद्ध हो जाता है। ऐसा लगता है कि हिन्दी सीखने वालों को हिन्दी में बात करके भारतीय लोगों की खुशी देखना हमेशा अच्छा अनुभव है।

बेंत्सै फुश्तोश



The logo features a large white '75' on the left. To its right is a stylized Indian national flag with orange, white, and green horizontal stripes, and the Ashoka Chakra in the center. Below the flag, the text 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' is written in a bold, sans-serif font. 'Azadi' is orange, 'Ka' is white, 'Amrit' is white, and 'Mahotsav' is green.

# 75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

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