

Ambassador speech at Ambedkar Jayanti

14 April 2026

Jó napot kívánok. Good afternoon. Jai Bhim

It is a matter of great privilege and honour for me to join you today in Hungary to celebrate the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar. Seeing Babasaheb's legacy thriving in the heart of Europe, guiding a sanctuary of learning like this school, fills me with immense pride and deep humility.

For me, Dr. Ambedkar is not merely as an iconic historical figure, but a personal hero and a daily moral touchstone. In the complex world of diplomacy, where we navigate intricate global relations, his unwavering commitment to justice, equity, and human dignity serves as a constant, illuminating compass. He reminds all of us in public service that the ultimate goal of statecraft must be the welfare and upliftment of the last person in line.

Dr. Ambedkar's life was a masterclass in overcoming insurmountable odds. As the chief architect of the Indian Constitution, he bequeathed a framework for both governance and social transformation to a newly independent, wildly diverse nation. A staunch advocate of constitutional morality, he famously warned that it "is not a natural sentiment" and "has to be cultivated." He believed that for a democracy to survive, its people

must adhere strictly to constitutional methods, abandoning the grammar of anarchy.

Beyond his role as a jurist, Babasaheb was a quintessential modernist and a true polymath. At a time when society was deeply entrenched in the archaic dogmas of caste and hierarchy, he emerged as a harbinger of modernity. He understood that true modernism transcends industrialization or technological advancement; it is fundamentally about the emancipation of the human mind from prejudice, rooted in a steadfast belief in rationality, liberty, and fraternity. We must acknowledge that transitioning to a truly modern, prejudice-free society remains an uphill task everywhere, requiring constant vigilance and continuous effort.

While we must unhesitatingly accept Babasaheb as the messiah of the Dalits, limiting his contributions to just this role or his contributions to constitutional architecture fails to recognize his vast erudition. His unmatched intellect spanned economics, journalism, feminism, labor law, education, and comparative religion. Because his scholarship encompasses such diverse elements of life, doing full justice to his contributions in a single address is incredibly challenging. Though many have started to revere and celebrate him, mere glorification offers little solace if we ignore his critical perspectives, which remain crucial

for a socially and religiously diverse country like India. It is the need of the hour to consciously re-read, contemplate, and embrace Dr. Ambedkar's fundamental teachings for a better tomorrow.

Yet, Dr. Ambedkar's vision was never confined by geography. His life's work of emancipating the downtrodden serves as a universal beacon of inspiration; for anyone struggling for equality, respect, and a voice—including right here in Hungary—his message resonates powerfully. He taught us that "life should be great rather than long," and that true greatness is achieved through service to the marginalized.

Today, under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is actively realizing the dreams Dr. Ambedkar harbored for our nation. The Prime Minister has frequently emphasized that Babasaheb's ideals form the core of our government's guiding philosophy: "*Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas*" (Together, for everyone's growth, with everyone's trust and effort). As PM Modi noted last year, his own life is dedicated to upholding these constitutional values, acknowledging that it is only because of Babasaheb's Constitution that someone born into poverty can serve the nation, bringing hope, strength, and dignity to crores of people.

To honor Baba saheb's legacy, we have developed the *Panchteerth*—five key sites related to Dr. Ambedkar's life, from his birthplace in Mhow to his student home in London—ensuring his journey inspires future generations.

More importantly, the government has launched unprecedented measures for the upliftment and empowerment of Dalit, Scheduled Caste (SC), and Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities.

The Indian Constitution establishes a robust **framework for the upliftment of Scheduled Castes (SCs)**, encompassing protections against discrimination—such as the **abolition of untouchability** (Article 17)—and **ensuring representation in education, employment, and politics** (Articles 15, 16, 46, 330, and 335). The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment acts as the nodal agency, executing these mandates through targeted educational, economic, and social initiatives.

For educational empowerment, the government offers comprehensive financial support. A cornerstone initiative is the **Post-Matric Scholarship (PMS-SC)**, the single largest intervention for SC students, supplemented by the **National Overseas Scholarship** and **Top Class Education Scheme** for advanced studies.

Economic mobility is driven by the **PM-DAKSH Yojana** for skill development and financial backing from the

National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (**NSFDC**).

Social justice is strictly enforced through landmark legislation, notably the **Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955**, the **SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989**, and the **Manual Scavengers Act, 2013**. Furthermore, the umbrella **Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY)** streamlines various programs to reduce poverty and improve infrastructure, while foundations honoring Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Babu Jagjivan Ram promote their visions of an egalitarian society.

His visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to justice, equality and constitutionalism continue to guide our national journey. He inspired generations to uphold human dignity and strengthen democratic values. May his ideals keep lighting our path as we work towards building a Viksit Bharat.

This shared pursuit of empowerment seamlessly connects to the warm and rapidly growing ties between India and Hungary, a bilateral relationship rooted in deep historical connections and shared democratic values. The Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre in Budapest stands as a testament to our vibrant cultural exchange. Beyond trade and culture, our nations share a fundamental belief in education's power to transform lives—a belief perfectly embodied by the Ambedkar

School. The connections we forge today through student exchanges, economic partnerships, and mutual respect are building a bridge of friendship for future generations. We look forward to deepening this partnership, learning from each other, and standing together as beacons of democracy.

Let me conclude with a profound clarion call issued by Dr. Ambedkar at the All India Depressed Classes Conference in 1942, something that resonates with the motto of your school: "*Educate, Agitate, Organize.*" Recognizing that caste-based marginalization had driven millions into abject poverty and stripped them of their humanity, he established these three pillars to guide the way toward emancipation, justice, equality, fraternity, and liberty. He urged the oppressed to pursue the education previously denied to them, to peacefully agitate for their rights, and to organize collectively. This call remains highly relevant and actionable for all who advocate for social justice today. His visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to constitutionalism continue to guide our national journey, inspiring generations to uphold human dignity. This inclusive, forward-looking vision represents the India we are building today and the world we must all strive for tomorrow.

Thank you to the Ambedkar School for keeping the flame of his ideals burning bright in Hungary. May his

legacy keep lighting our path toward a Viksit Bharat, and may we all continue to walk the path of knowledge, equality, and compassion that Babasaheb laid out for us.

Thank you. *Köszönöm szépen.* Jai Hind.