

*Speech by Ambassador Shri Anshuman Gaur on the ITEC Day
Celebration, Budapest*

3rd October 2025

*Excellencies, distinguished guests, esteemed ITEC alumni, friends of
India, and dear Hungarian colleagues,*

Jó napot kívánok! Good afternoon.

It is with immense pleasure and a deep sense of pride that I stand before you today to celebrate Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Day—or as we fondly call it, ITEC Day. This is a special occasion, one that marks not just a program, but a philosophy of partnership, a celebration of shared knowledge, and a testament to the enduring bonds of friendship between nations.

The ITEC program was launched by the Government of India in 1964. This vision is guided by the ancient Indian philosophy of '**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**' – **the belief that the world is one family**. ITEC is not a donor-recipient program; it is a partnership among equals, a collaborative effort to build capacity and empower individuals who, in turn, build their nations. It was a pioneering initiative, born from our firm belief that the journey of development is a collective one.

The core idea is simple yet profound: to share India's own developmental experiences and technical knowledge with our partners. It was not about aid, but about partnership. It was not a one-way street, but a two-way exchange of ideas, skills, and culture, built on the principles of mutual cooperation. Over the past six decades, ITEC has become a flagship of India's international knowledge engagement, a symbol of our commitment to global solidarity and mutual growth.

The true value of ITEC lies in its focus on what is perhaps the most critical resource of any nation: its people. By empowering individuals with new skills and knowledge, we build institutional capacity and foster self-reliance. From courses in information technology and cybersecurity to rural development, renewable energy, and parliamentary studies, ITEC offers training across a vast spectrum of fields. These programs are designed to be practical, relevant, and responsive to the evolving needs of our partner countries.

What began as a modest initiative has blossomed into one of the world's most significant capacity-building programs. To date, ITEC has provided training to over 200,000 professionals from more than 160 partner countries across Asia, Africa, Latin America, and of course, Central and Eastern Europe. The program has consistently evolved to meet the demands of a changing world.

In recent years, we have embraced digital innovation through **e-ITEC**, offering live online courses to ensure that the flow of knowledge continues uninterrupted. The curriculum has expanded beyond traditional subjects to include cutting-edge fields such as Artificial Intelligence, cybersecurity, sustainable development, renewable energy, and nano-technology. This ensures that our partner countries are equipped with the skills needed to navigate the complexities of the 21st century. From judicial training in New Delhi to solar energy technology in Rajasthan, ITEC offers a diverse and world-class learning experience, hosted at India's premier institutions.

Each year, hundreds of professionals are trained under ITEC, returning to their home countries not just with new expertise, but with a deeper understanding and appreciation of India. They become bridges between our cultures, and we affectionately call them our "ITEC Ambassadors."

Our celebration today is made truly special by the presence of our Hungarian ITEC alumni. Hungary has been a valued partner in the ITEC program for many years. We are delighted that dozens of

Hungarian professionals, experts, and officials have participated in various specialized courses across India. They have returned not just with new skills and knowledge but with a deeper understanding and appreciation of India's culture and diversity.

You, our alumni, are the living bridges between our two nations. You are the true ambassadors of the India-Hungary friendship. The experiences you have shared and the networks you have built are invaluable assets that strengthen the very fabric of our bilateral relationship. We are immensely proud of your achievements and your contributions to Hungary's progress. We look forward to welcoming many more participants from Hungary in the coming years.

The spirit of ITEC perfectly mirrors the broader relationship between India and Hungary—a relationship built on a foundation of mutual respect, shared democratic values, and a rich history of cultural connections. The relationship between India and Hungary is characterized by warmth, mutual respect, and a growing convergence on global issues. Our economic ties are strengthening, our cultural exchanges are flourishing, and our people-to-people connections are deeper than ever. Our bond is beautifully symbolized by figures like the celebrated painter Amrita Sher-Gil, whose heritage connects our two countries in the world of art. It is fitting that our cultural centre in the dynamic city of Budapest, where these celebrations are taking place, is named after her.

Today, our partnership is dynamic and forward-looking. We are witnessing growing collaboration in trade, technology, and investment. Indian companies are increasingly finding a home here in Hungary, contributing to the local economy, just as Hungarian expertise is valued in India. In this flourishing relationship, ITEC serves as a crucial pillar, fostering human connections that give our partnership depth and warmth.

As we look to the future, we see even greater potential for collaboration. India is on a path of rapid economic growth, driven by

innovation and a youthful demographic. Hungary stands as a hub of talent and technology in the heart of Europe. By continuing to share knowledge and work together, we can unlock new opportunities and address shared challenges.

So today, let us celebrate the success of the ITEC program. Let us honour the alumni who have dedicated themselves to learning and service. And most importantly, let us reaffirm our commitment to the spirit of partnership and friendship that defines the relationship between India and Hungary.

Thank you. Köszönöm szépen.