

Remarks by Ambassador at University of Debrecen

3 February 2026

Rector Prof. Dr. Zoltán Szilvássy,

Pro Vice Chancellor of Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya, Dr. Chinmay Pandya,

Distinguished Deans, President of the Clinical Centre, Faculty members, and dear students,

Jó napot kívánok. Namaste.

It is a profound honor to be here at the University of Debrecen, an institution that stands not only as a citadel of European learning but as a cherished home away from home for hundreds of Indian students. Debrecen has always held a special place in the narrative of Indo-Hungarian relations, serving as a vibrant hub where science meets tradition, and where the Danube valley meets the Ganges in spirit.

We are gathered here to celebrate the living bridge of education between our nations, to honor a pioneer, and to look candidly at the future of our collaboration.

The bond between India and Hungary is not a recent diplomatic construct; it is a historical affinity rooted in intellectual curiosity. From Alexander Csoma de Körös to Rabindranath Tagore and Amrita Sher-Gil, our people have always sought to understand one another. Today, that legacy is carried forward most visibly through education.

The *Stipendium Hungaricum* scholarship programme has become the cornerstone of our people-to-people ties. It is heartening to see that the University of Debrecen hosts one of the largest cohorts of Indian students in Hungary, particularly in the fields of medicine and engineering. These students are the true ambassadors of the future, and I thank the Rector and the faculty for the mentorship provided to them.

However, the unique character of our partnership with this University has always been its willingness to embrace holistic health. Hungary was unique in Europe for its openness to Ayurveda, and Debrecen was the torchbearer.

Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India has actively sought to share the timeless heritage of Ayurveda and Yoga with the

world—not merely as cultural artifacts, but as holistic solutions for global well-being. This aligns with our philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'—the world is one family.

Hungary has been uniquely receptive to this vision, embracing these traditions with open hearts and scientific curiosity.

In this spirit of shared wellness, I warmly invite the University of Debrecen to partner with the Embassy of India this coming June to celebrate the International Day of Yoga, making this campus a vibrant hub for this global movement.

We look back with immense pride at the establishment of the Department of Ayurveda here—a pioneering initiative that allowed the ancient wisdom of Indian medicine to be studied with the scientific rigour of the West. It was a model we showcased to the world.

I must convey that we were disappointed when the University conveyed its inability to carry forward the Ayurveda Chair. The Chair was not merely an academic position; it was a symbol of the synthesis between Eastern wisdom and Western diagnostics. Its discontinuation is a setback, not just for the Indian side, but for the global movement towards integrative medicine. We believe that the potential for Ayurveda in this region remains vast, and letting go of such a specialized infrastructure is a missed opportunity.

However, diplomacy, like education, is about finding new paths when old ones are obstructed. While we regret the pause in the Chairship, we do not give up on the collaboration. The presence of Dr. Chinmay Pandya today, and the partnership with Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya (DSVV), signals our resilience. We must look at other robust mechanisms—be it short-term exchanges, joint research modules, or the integration of Yoga and wellness into the broader curriculum.

Our commitment to this field is underscored by the memory of the man we honor today: Professor M.S. Baghel- He was, in the truest sense, a 'Rishi in a lab coat'—a man who possessed the spiritual depth of a sage and the analytical mind of a modern scientist.

Today, as we witness the ceremonial donation of classical literature from DSVV to the University, let us view these books not as artifacts for a library shelf, but as seeds for a new beginning. Knowledge, once given, cannot be rescinded.

Mr. Rector, India remains committed to the University of Debrecen. We value your friendship. We hope that today's discussions and this ceremony will serve

as a catalyst to rethink how we can revive our cooperation in traditional medicine, honoring the legacy of Professor Baghel not just with plaques, but with active academic pursuit.

Thank you. Köszönöm szépen.