

**Remarks by Ambassador at the Inaugural Session of
the Indian Arts and Culture Event Series**

**The Lyceum, Chapel of the Eszterházy Károly Catholic
University, Eger**

Date: Thursday, March 26, 2026

Dr. Pajtókné Dr. Ilona Tari, Honoured Rector of Eszterházy Károly Catholic University, Dr. Gábor Pajtók, Honoured Member of Parliament, Representatives of the Egri Norma Foundation, Distinguished Guests, Members of the Faculty, Students, and Friends of India,

Jó napot kívánok. Namaste.

It is a profound privilege to be here in the historic and deeply inspiring city of Eger. I wish to begin by extending my sincere gratitude to the Egri Norma Foundation, whose tireless efforts, in collaboration with our team at the Embassy, have made this magnificent three-day celebration of Indian Arts and Culture possible.

Eger is a city that wears its heritage with pride, yet its true strength lies in its dynamic, multicultural milieu. It is a place where history and forward-looking intellectualism walk hand in hand. Nowhere is this more evident than here at the Eszterházy Károly Catholic University. I am deeply appreciative of the University's commitment to fostering a global perspective. It brings

me immense joy to note the presence of Indian students within your academic community. These young minds are not just pursuing degrees; they are the living, breathing bridges between our two nations, enriching the local culture while carrying a piece of Eger back home with them.

The relationship between India and Hungary is anchored in a deep, mutual cultural resonance. For generations, the philosophical and artistic streams flowing out of India have found a wonderfully receptive audience in the people of Hungary. Whether it is the dedicated practice of Yoga and Ayurveda, the profound appreciation for classical Indian dance and music, or the scholarly engagement with Indian philosophy and literature, Hungarians have always embraced the Indian civilizational ethos with an open heart and an analytical mind.

This vibrant cultural dialogue is championed every day by the Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre in Budapest. Named after the iconic artist who physically and spiritually united our two worlds, the Centre remains deeply committed to ensuring that the cultural heartbeat shared by India and Hungary continues to grow stronger, reaching beautiful cities like Eger.

As we celebrate these cultural and intellectual ties, we also look to the future through the lens of education and

capacity building. India is proud to welcome Hungarian scholars and professionals through the ICCR scholarships and the ITEC—Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation—programs. Simultaneously, we are witnessing a heartening expansion in our bilateral educational sector, with a steadily increasing number of Indian students choosing the world-class institutions of Hungary for their higher education. This two-way exchange of youth and ideas is the bedrock of our future partnership.

And it is a future rich with opportunity. The deep cultural trust we have cultivated over decades provides the perfect foundation for a robust economic and commercial partnership. Today, under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is making unprecedented strides in development, innovation, and digital transformation. India is not just rising; it is actively shaping the global economic landscape.

With the finalization of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement, we stand on the threshold of a new era. This agreement creates tremendous, frictionless opportunities for Hungarian firms to bring their expertise, technology, and innovation to the vast and rapidly growing Indian market. From green technology and water management to pharmaceuticals and

advanced manufacturing, the synergies between our two economies are waiting to be fully unlocked.

But as we look toward these expansive economic horizons, we must always remember where our strength comes from. It comes from moments like this. It comes from the shared joy of music, the storytelling of dance, and the community of learning.

I wish this three-day event series the utmost success. I look forward to the wonderful performances by Mr. Durgesh Kanwal, Dr. György Molnár, Ms. Priya Garg, and Ms. Zselyke Molnár that await us shortly. Over the next three days the people of Eger will have a photo exhibition on Indian films, screening of an award-winning Indian film, seminar on tourism, Yoga session and performances of Indian music and dance. They will also get to enjoy a taste of India with examples of Indian cuisine.

Thank you for your warmth, your hospitality, and your enduring friendship.

Köszönöm szépen.