

Remarks by Ambassador at the Commemoration of the 113th Birth Anniversary of Amrita Sher-Gil Budapest, February 02, 2026

Director, distinguished guests, fellow art lovers, and friends of India,

Jó estét kívánok. Namaskar.

It is a privilege to stand here today in Budapest- at the house where Amrita Sher-Gil was born exactly 113 years ago—to honor a legacy that belongs as much to this city as it does to New Delhi.

We often speak of diplomatic ties in terms of trade and treaties, but Amrita Sher-Gil remains the most profound, living 'treaty' between our two nations. She was not merely a bridge between India and Hungary; she was the river that flowed between them.

Amrita's genius did not spring from a vacuum. It was nurtured here, by the Danube, influenced by the intellectual rigor of her uncle Ervin Baktay and the artistic vibrancy of 1920s Budapest.

Amrita famously said, *"Europe belongs to Picasso, Matisse,... India belongs only to me."* Yet, standing here today, we can see that her claim was only half the story. While her canvas was Indian—capturing the silence and soul of our villages—her palette remained distinctly Hungarian. It was this unique alchemy—a Hungarian post-impressionist eye observing the Indian reality—that birthed Modern Indian Art.

Today, as we see the enthusiasm of the young Hungarian artists participating in our annual painting competition, it is clear that Amrita is not just a historical figure; she is an active inspiration. She reminds us that true art knows no borders, and that the Indian and Hungarian soul can sing in perfect harmony.

I thank the Museum leadership for keeping this connection alive. Let us celebrate the daughter of Budapest who became the soul of India.

Köszönöm szépen. Thank you.