

## **Ambassador's remarks at Indologist Meeting**

**8 April 2026**

*Distinguished Scholars, esteemed Indologists, researchers, students of India, and friends,*

It is a distinct privilege and a profound honor to welcome such an erudite gathering to the Embassy today. We are gathered here not merely as representatives of two nations, but as custodians of a deep, historical, and intellectual dialogue between India and Hungary.

To speak of Indian studies in this country is to speak of a rich, enduring legacy. Hungary possesses a remarkably robust intellectual tradition, one that has long been characterized by an insatiable curiosity about the world and a rigorous, disciplined approach to scholarly inquiry. It is a tradition that has produced extraordinary minds. When we look back at the pioneering journeys of Sándor Kőrösi Csoma, the cultural bridge-building of Ervin Baktay, and the meticulous linguistic explorations of countless Hungarian academicians, we see a profound dedication to understanding the soul of the East.

Today, I wish to convey my deepest gratitude to all of you in this room. Through your painstaking translations, your historical research, and your dedication to languages like Sanskrit and Hindi, you have not only deepened the understanding of India within Hungary, but you have also enriched the global tapestry of Indology. The quality of Hungarian scholarship remains a benchmark of excellence, and your personal dedication to this pursuit is truly admirable.

You are engaging with India at a fascinating and dynamic juncture. Over the past decade or so, India has been experiencing a vibrant cultural renaissance. We are witnessing a confident reclaiming of our civilizational heritage, a renewed pride in our ancient knowledge systems, and a concerted effort to share this wealth with the world. This cultural resurgence is unfolding against the backdrop of an extraordinary national transformation. Driven by the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has embarked on a path of rapid, inclusive development and unprecedented economic growth. As India emerges as a pivotal force on the global stage, understanding its cultural roots, its philosophical foundations, and its contemporary society has never been more relevant.

As we reflect on the state of Indian studies today, we must acknowledge the evolving landscape. Contemporary Indology is witnessing a fascinating shift. While the foundational work in classical philology and ancient texts remains as crucial as ever, there is an emerging trend toward interdisciplinary studies—connecting classical wisdom with modern political science, sociology, and economics.

Naturally, there are challenges. Sustaining institutional support, attracting the next generation of students to rigorous linguistic disciplines, and bridging the gap between classical study and modern relevance are issues faced by scholars globally. Yet, these challenges are eclipsed by emerging opportunities, particularly those brought about by the digital age.

In India, noted institutions are doing pioneering work to modernize and expand the scope of Indology. Establishments such as the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute (BORI) in Pune, the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) in New Delhi, and various premier

technical and classical universities are leading a digital revolution in humanities. They are actively engaged in the mass digitization of ancient manuscripts, creating comprehensive digital repositories, and developing critical editions of foundational texts that are now accessible worldwide.

This brings me to a crucial frontier where Hungarian and Indian scholars can forge powerful new collaborations. I strongly encourage a more rigorous integration of digitization and computational technologies in our field. The advent of Artificial Intelligence and advanced Machine Learning offers us unprecedented tools. AI-driven Natural Language Processing is now being utilized to decipher complex, degraded manuscripts, translate voluminous texts at scale, and map linguistic evolution in Sanskrit and regional languages. By applying computational models, we can revisit earlier, well-studied material to draw entirely new insights, identifying patterns and historical linkages that were previously imperceptible to the human eye. The intersection of AI and classical studies is a frontier I urge us to explore together.

As you chart these new directions, I want to assure you of our unwavering partnership. The Embassy of India, and specifically the Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre in Budapest, stands firmly committed to supporting the work of Hungarian Indologists. We view the Cultural Centre not just as a venue for performance, but as a vibrant intellectual hub. We are eager to organize more symposiums, host lecture series, and provide a platform for you to share your vital work with a much wider audience, both academic and public.

Your insights are invaluable to us. I request that you continue to remain in close touch with the Embassy and the Cultural Centre. We look to you not just as scholars, but as trusted advisors who can provide guidance to the work of this Mission in furthering the cultural and intellectual bonds between our two great nations.

Thank you once again for your dedication, your presence today, and your enduring friendship with India. I now look forward to an open, in-depth, and energizing discussion.

Thank You.