

Speech by the Ambassador

Namaste and good evening to you all,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you this evening at the Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre of the Embassy of India. I extend my warmest greetings to each one of you and wish you all Merry Christmas.

As the world comes together to celebrate the joyous occasion of Christmas, we are reminded that this festival is much more than a date on the calendar. Christmas is a season that transcends borders, cultures, and beliefs. It brings with it a universal message of love, compassion, hope, and togetherness-values that resonate deeply across societies and generations.

This Cultural Centre has long served as a bridge between India and Hungary, fostering friendship and cultural understanding. Celebrating Christmas here is especially meaningful, as it reflects the shared values that unite us as people, regardless of where we come from. In celebrating Christmas, we celebrate humanity itself.

As we approach the close of the year, it is also a moment to reflect with gratitude. The past year has been one of growth and collaboration. The Cultural Centre has been pleased to host a wide range of programmes - events, workshops, lectures, exhibitions, and performances - that have brought together the artistic and cultural essence of both India and Hungary. These initiatives have enriched our cultural dialogue and strengthened the bonds of friendship between our two countries. Just as Christmas nurtures a spirit of unity, cultural exchange deepens mutual understanding and brings people closer together.

While today's celebration marks the final programme of this year, it also opens the door to a new beginning. The coming year will see a renewed calendar of cultural events and activities that we hope will be even more engaging, meaningful, and joyful for all of us.

As we gather this evening, let us take a moment to reflect on how we can carry the spirit of Christmas beyond today. Simple acts of kindness, compassion, and generosity - whether towards a neighbour, a friend, or a stranger - have the power to make a lasting difference. These values, practiced throughout the year, can truly enrich our lives and our communities.

On this joyous occasion, I wish you and your families a Christmas and New Year filled with happiness, peace, love, and serenity. May the New Year bring continued harmony, success, and inspiration as we work together to build a more inclusive, compassionate, and culturally vibrant world.

I thank you all sincerely for joining us this evening and for making this celebration so special. I would also like to express my appreciation to the participants of the cultural programme for their dedication and hard work in preparing tonight's performances.

Now, enjoy the cultural evening.

Once again, I wish you all Merry Christmas.

Thank you