

Ambassador's remarks on 77th Republic Day of India, Budapest

January 26, 2026

Excellency, Madame State Secretary for Bilateral Relations,

**Secretaries, Honourble Members of the Hungarian
Parliament and Government,**

Excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps,

Friends from the Media,

Captains of Industry,

Cherished Friends of India, and My fellow Indians,

Good evening,

As a poet, I am often tempted to search for rhymes in history, to find the cadence in chaos. But as a diplomat, I am trained to look for reasons, for interests, and for the solid ground of geopolitical reality.

Tonight, standing here in the beautiful embrace of Budapest —a city that wears its history with the same elegance as it wears the winter snow—I find that I do not have to choose between the poet and the diplomat.

In the relationship between India and Hungary, the rhyme and the reason are one and the same.

On this day in 1950, a young nation, ancient in its soul but new in its form, gave itself a Constitution.

This was no ordinary legal document; it was a radical act of faith. At its very inception, the Indian Constitution enshrined the lofty ideals of Justice, Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity-- not as distant goals, but as immediate rights.

Perhaps the single greatest act of empowerment in human history was the granting of Universal Adult Franchise.

At a time when many mature democracies were still grappling with incremental rights—debating whether the poor or the women were 'ready' to vote—a young India, rising from the ashes of colonialism, gave every single citizen the power to shape their destiny from day one.

That audacious belief in the wisdom of the common man and woman continues to be the beating heart of our Republic.

It is this democratic energy that informs our choices today and inspires our confident stride into the future.

Today, I stand before you representing a nation that has not only upheld the ideals enshrined in our Constitution but has transformed into a civilizational state that is strong, resilient, and unapologetically committed to bringing the fruits of progress to all its people.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the India of 2026 is no longer a country waiting in the anteroom.

We see a New India that has shed the hesitations of the past.

We see us as power that harnesses technology for the greater good, such as in creating a digital public infrastructure—where a tea seller in a remote village and a tech mogul in Bengaluru transact on the same instant, seamless platform.

We have transformed from a nation of potential to a nation of delivery.

Our economy is not just growing; it is roaring.

We have streamlined our tax codes, modernized our labour laws, and rolled out the red carpet where there was once red tape.

To my Hungarian friends looking for growth and prosperity- India is open for business.

Our scale provides the volume;

Our youth provides the energy;

and, Our reforms provide the direction.

Dear Friends,

Prosperity, however, requires peace, and peace requires strength.

In this volatile world, where the tectonic plates of geopolitics are ever shifting, India stands as a pillar of stability.

A stability that is guarded by a new resolve.

India is a nation that loves peace, but we are not a nation of pacifist inaction.

We have adopted a policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism. The days of suffering in silence are behind us.

To those who threaten the safety of our citizens, whether from across a border or from the shadows of a proxy war, our message is simple:

We will do whatever it takes.

We are willing to escalate to any level, and pay any price, to ensure the security of our people and the sanctity of our borders.

This is the India of today—magnanimous in its friendship, but formidable in its defense.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is this profound respect for sovereignty that creates the unique resonance between India and Hungary.

When we look at the world—whether from the banks of the Danube or the shores of the Yamuna—our perspectives align with remarkable clarity.

We are two nations that believe in engaging with the global community while steadfastly preserving the distinct character of our homelands.

Hungarians, guarding a thousand years of history in the Carpathian Basin, have taught the world that identity is an act of will.

You understand **Szabadság**—Freedom—not merely as a political concept, but as a cultural imperative. Similarly, India, a civilization of five millennia, knows that our future is brightest when it is illuminated by the wisdom of our past.

We both recognize that to be truly global, one must be proudly local. Whether it is the cherishing of the Hungarian language—that unique, mathematical music of the soul—or in the renaissance of India's civilizational spirit.

This shared philosophy—of strategic autonomy, respect for heritage, and the centrality of the family—forms the bedrock of our political convergence.

Dear friends,

We have taken this relationship to a "higher orbit."—literally. I recall with immense pride the recent success of the joint Axiom space mission. To see an Indian and a Hungarian astronaut working shoulder-to-shoulder in the zero-gravity expanse of space was gratifying. It has become the defining image of our modern partnership.

That mission demonstrated that when India and Hungary collaborate, the sky is not the limit; it is merely the baseline. It was a testament to our scientific temperaments and our national ambitions.

We are thrilled to be joined here today by a man who represents the pinnacle of scientific exploration. Please join me in welcoming the pride of Hungary, astronaut Mr. **Tibor Kapu**.

And while our eyes are on the stars, our feet remain firmly planted on the ground of economic reality.

Dear Friends,

Our commercial ties have a long, warm history. Some of you present here will remember the era before Hungary's accession to the European Union, when our two nations enjoyed the benefits of a bilateral Free Trade Agreement.

Now, history is rhyming once again. We are on the cusp of finalizing the ambitious India-EU Free Trade Agreement. This accord is not just a document; it is a revitalisation of our historic ease of trade. It will bridge the regulatory distance and unlock tremendous potential, allowing Hungarian businesses seamless access to the largest and most dynamic market in the world.

We are already seeing this dynamic in action. The growing Indian investments in Hungary is not merely capital; it is a catalyst. When Indian manufacturing and technology firms invest here, they bring scale and innovation that makes Hungarian industry more global and more competitive.

Conversely, Hungarian excellence has found a warm home in India. Look at Gedeon Richter. For decades, they have been a household name in India, providing high-quality healthcare to millions and now they are making in India for the world.

Their success is a beacon, signalling to every Hungarian enterprise that if you have the drive, India has the scale to make you a global giant. The opportunities for fast growth for Hungarian businesses in India's competitive economy are limitless.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I must express my profound delight that we are gathered here at the—the Heritage House. It is fitting that we celebrate the Indian Republic in this cathedral of Hungarian culture. But for an Indian Ambassador, this location holds some secret poetry.

Just a few steps from here stands the house where Amrita Sher-Gil, the daughter of both our nations, was born. To stand here is to stand at the physical confluence of our shared history, a reminder that our bond is not just political, but blood-deep. There is a connection of the spirit.

As the great Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore found solace on the shores of Lake Balaton, we find solace in our mutual respect.

I most sincerely thank our Chief Guest, Her Excellency, Madam State Secretary. Your presence here tonight is not merely protocol; it is personal. We deeply value your long-standing commitment to this partnership, championed both in your executive capacity and as a distinguished member of the India-Hungary Parliamentary Friendship Group.

As you prepare to lead the Hungarian delegation for the upcoming round of Bilateral Consultations in New Delhi, we are confident that your leadership will inject new energy and strategic direction into our already warm ties.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are two peoples who pride ourselves on our incredibly complex languages—Hungarian and Sanskrit are perhaps the only two languages that can accurately describe the metaphysics of the universe!

And while we may debate on the taste of Hungarian Paprika or Indian Chilli—tonight, for diplomatic propriety, we agree that both provide the necessary spice of life!

In 2026, India is a shining star in the global firmament—an ancient civilization with a young population, ready to engage with the world for the benefit of all humanity.

We are delighted and honoured to have Hungary walk this path with us, not just as a partner, but as a kindred spirit.

Long Live Hungary

Long Live India, and

Long Live the shining friendship between the Magyar and Indian people.

Thank you.