70th Independence Day in India
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AMRIT
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Ambassador Chhabra visited Sarajevo, BiH where he had various high level meetings and attended the Sarajevo Film Festival in which India also participated. 6 writers and 3 mentors from NFDC (National Film Development Corporation of India) travelled to Sarajevo to take part in networking events and professional sessions. During the Festival Ambassador was also invited for a coffee with Screenwriters’ Lab Team of India.

He met Deputy Prime Minister Mirko Sarovic and invited him to India-Europe 29 Business Forum that aims to enhance cooperation between business and industry from India and the countries of Europe. It will be held on 8-9 December, 2016 in New Delhi.

He also met Ms. Aida Soko, Advisor to Prime Minister of FBiH to follow up on the visit of Railway Minister and discussed the Railway project which was raised during the Minister’s visit to BiH in July 2016.

Moreover, Ambassador visited the International University of Sarajevo, where he was received by Rector, Prof. Dr. Yücel Öğurü and also interacted with Rector Prof. Muharem Avdispahic when he visited the University of Sarajevo.

His tour in Sarajevo ended by attending a business meeting with Mr. Bruno Bojic, President of the BiH Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Celebrating 20th anniversary of Sivananda Yoga Community in Hungary and Laying the Foundation stone of the new building

On 8th September Ambassador attended the ceremony of laying the foundation stone for a new building of the (Sivananda Yoga Centre) in Budapest. After delivering his festive speech on the momentous occasion, Ambassador along with Director of the Sivananda Yoga Centre, Mr. Omkara (Capt. András Veres) and Dr. Zsolt Láng, Mayor of 2nd district of Budapest laid the foundation stone and buried a time capsule with the foundation charter for the future generation. The joyous occasion also marked the 20th anniversary of the Sivananda Yoga Community in Hungary.
The event focused on the “Future of Safety and Effective Patients Care” (ECIM) joined with the 14th Biennial International Symposium on the Bi-Digital O-Ring Test and the 32nd Annual International Symposium on Acupuncture, Electro-Therapeutics and the latest advancements in Integrated Medicine.

The aim of the Congress was to promote and discuss the integrated implementation of CAM into academic medicine as part of the integrative health care. Furthermore the event tried to encourage a dialogue between academics and CAM-professionals, promoting research and implementing values into daily practices of providers.

The organizer of the Congress was TCM Confucius Institute Pecs University (Health Science Faculty) together with the Hungarian Medical Acupuncture Association (since 1988) a member and part of the European Society of Integrative Medicine. The Congress President was Prof. Dr. Hegyi Gabriella MD. PhD. Overall 400 persons registered for the event.

Ambassador welcoming the attendees of the event

India promoted at the Social Business Forum on 12th September 2016

Ambassador of India H.E. Mr Rahul Chhabra participated at the Social Business Forum 2016.

The Social Business Forum of the European Chamber is a yearly platform for organizations, institutions and business-oriented individuals to share ideas and experiences regarding business implementations that reinforce social innovations and enrich the overall welfare of society.

The event focuses on the impact that business can have on the society, and showcases great examples operating all over the world, with this year’s edition featuring the activity of a social enterprise incubator and explaining what social impact investment means.

The Ambassador of India Mr Rahul Chhabra introduced the economic status in India and shared with the audience the social entrepreneurship and corporate social responsibility (CSR) strategies in his country, including the provision of compulsory share of corporate earning reinvested in CSR activities, with examples which can serve as a guide for the Central-Eastern European countries as well. Ambassador Chhabra closed his remarks by quoting Mahatma Gandhi “The world has enough for everyone’s need, but not enough for everyone’s greed”.

The forum attracted more than 100 participants from 20 countries and hosted the exhibition of 8 organizations and NGOs active in the fields of social entrepreneurship and sustainability.
Attending Jameson CineFest in Miskolc

H.E. Ambassador Rahul Chhabra & Mrs. Kavita Chhabra met the legendary Film Director & Writer, Mr. Károly Makk during the Jameson CineFest – 13th Miskolc International Film Festival, Hungary September 16th & 17th. Mr. Makk was presented with the Lifetime Achievement award at the closing ceremony. Ambassador also met the festival director Mr. Tibor Bíró and congratulated him for the success of the festival. Upon discussion, Mr. Bíró also welcomed the Ambassador’s proposal and promised to organize a separate festival for Indian Films. The week-long festival presented a beautiful rainbow of international films.

Monthly meeting of the Diplomatic Spouses of Budapest

The September monthly meeting of the Diplomatic Spouses of Budapest was hosted by Madam Kavita Chhabra on 26 September in the garden of the Residence. Following the discussion of its official business on the agenda, the group enjoyed a beautiful performance telling the story of Jhansi Ki Rani through dance, music and poetry by Ms. Saumya Shukla, Kathak dancer, Ms. Panni Somi and Nikoletta Domak of the Sivasakti Kalánanda Táncszínház (Sivasakti Kalananda Dance Theatre), Mr. Rajesh Gangani, tabla musician and Kanchan Bhardwaj. The cultural programme was followed by a scrumptious Indian lunch.

Some of the previous issues of Amrit

Embassy of India, Hungary
On India’s 70th Independence Day, Embassy of India, Budapest, organized a ceremony at Embassy Residence from 0900 to 1100 hours. The function started with flag hoisting ceremony, followed by playing of the national anthems of India and patriotic songs by women and children. Thereafter Ambassador read out the President’s Message. A short address by the Ambassador followed in which Ambassador informed the audience about the successful visits of...
Minister of State for Tourism and Civil Aviation to Budapest to inaugurate Ganges Danube Cultural Festival of India and International Day of Yoga. He further talked about the successful visit of Minister of Railways to Bosnia & Herzegovina in June, first ever visit of a Cabinet Minister to the country. These visits have given a strong impetus to the India-Hungary and India-Bosnia & Herzegovina relationships.

Ambassador thanked Indian community for participating and contributing in the Ganges Danube Cultural Festival as volunteers. He also encouraged all community members to register themselves in the Embassy website and MADAD portal. He also explained briefly about the Know India Programme and Pravasi Bhartiya Samman and encouraged the community to actively participate. He concluded his remarks by asking all present to do whatever they could to strengthen the ties between the two countries. This was followed by singing of patriotic songs and the inauguration of “Kalpana — Contemporary Indian Art Exhibition”. The five short films received from XP Division highlighting the 70 schemes and programmes that Government of India has launched for the welfare of the poor were also screened. Reflecting their growing engagement with the country of origin, over 150 members of the Indian community attended the flag- hoisting ceremony.
ASCC ACTIVITIES

Details of the activities of the Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre, Budapest, during the months of August and September, 2016 are as under:

Indian Film Club
On first and third Friday of every month films are screened under the aegis of “Indian Cine Club” at the auditorium of Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre in Embassy Premises for Hungarian fans. In view of the summer holiday, only one film was screened under the regular Film Club at the Cultural Centre in August, 2016:

Hum saath saath hai (1999, Hindi) was screened on 19.08.2016
On 02.09.2016 Iqbal was screened and on 16.09.2016 the blockbuster Lakshya (2004, Hindi).

The movies were subtitled in Hungarian language and was very well-received by the audience.

OCCASIONAL PROGRAMMES in ASCC

Exhibition: Kalpana-Masterpieces of Figurative Indian Contemporary Paintings

1 August–30 September 2016
Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre organized an exhibition titled ‘Kalpana-Masterpieces of Figurative Indian Contemporary Paintings’. Kalpana is an exhibition of digital reprints on canvas of paintings by some of the most eminent artists in India. The 14 painters are a mix between tradition and modernity. They each do however, have a unique style and have synthesised their influences in very different manners. According to critics, figurative art has been an inherent part of the Indian aesthetic sensibility and has a hoary past that precedes Mohenjodaro and Harappa. Within this diverse body of extant work, the human figure in its myriad variations has been central to this unbroken
continuum of the visual arts from the cave paintings in Bhimbetka to the present day.

The exhibition has been sent by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and was inaugurated on 15 August 2016 by H.E. Rahul Chhabra, Ambassador of India, on the occasion of Independence Day.

The exhibition will be on view till 30 September, Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 13 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Centre. Up to this point approximately 250 people came to see the exhibition.

Visit of Dr. Bhanuben Nanavati College of Architecture
18 August 2016

Professors and students of Dr. Bhanuben Nanavati College of Architecture for Women (BNCA) Karve Nagar, Pune INDIA, travelling on an educational program to Europe, visited Embassy of India on 18 August, 2016. It is part of the institute’s programs and projects in collaboration with GreenContributor Inc. Canada, done as member of the United Nations Academic Impact initiative of United Nations for motivating students to exchange creative idea and knowledge and implement some of these ideas and designs. This program in Hungary was in collaboration with DEMOLA Budapest & BME Technology and Knowledge transfer Office, Budapest, Hungary.

The tour started on 14 August completing on 24 August, 2016. The group arrived in Budapest to be a part of the workshop for "EMERGENCY SHELTER DESIGN" from 15th to 18th August 2016 along with multidisciplinary teams from BME. The students visited the Embassy to share the work and students’ experiences. Mr Vijay Khanduja, First Secretary, greeted the group in the Auditorium and talked about the functioning of the Embassy. There was also discussion about Indian economy and development issues. The students showed one by one the models which they were working on. In the end of the programme Indian refreshments were served.

Embassy of India and Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre organized Hindi Diwas on 22nd September, 2016. This year Hindi Diwas was celebrated in Embassy on 22nd September, 2016 instead of 14th September, 2016 so as to include other important programmes on Hindi and Indian Culture i.e. opening ceremony of Hindi classes and Oriental lectures in Cultural Centre.

The programme started with opening remarks by Director(ASCC), who briefly described the importance of Hindi Diwas and inclusion of two more programmes on Hindi Diwas to promote awareness about Hindi and Indian culture.

Dr Mária Négyesi, Head of Dept, Indo-European Studies, ELTE University greeted the audience and talked about the programmes on Hindi and Oriental lecture in the following semester.
Md Ali Jouher (member of this Mission) and Dr Dileep Shakya, Visiting Professor at ELTE University recited Hindi poetry. Ambassador presented the gifts and awards to Shri Ali Jouher, winner of Hindi essay competition (organized on 19 September in the Embassy) and for reciting Hindi poems. This was followed by singing of Hindi Bhajans by Mr Gábor Heves, who enchanted the audience.

The event was very colourful and the audience deeply appreciated the various programmes.

The highlight of the evening was a lecture-cum-demonstration by Mme Kavita Chhabra, wife of Ambassador, on Indian sarees, titled *Sarees, weavers,*
weaves. Mme Chhabra presented the audience, the origin of saree, its history, evolution, its journey from silkworm to big stores and 17 major types of sarees woven and worn in India.

The programme was presented through live cat walk on stage by 15 ladies wearing sarees from different regions of India and through power point presentation. The programme was a big hit with Hungarian audience as Hungarian models also participated in the cat walk. The programme helped in showcasing and promoting Indian culture and traditions.

A documentary film on Sarees ‘Six yards of grace’ by PD division was also screened after the catwalk.

The event was very colorful and the audience deeply appreciated the various programmes.

The warrior queen of India – story of Raani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi
26 September 2016

On the occasion of the meet of the Diplomatic Spouses, a programme was hosted by Embassy of India on 26 September 2016. Conceptualized by Mrs. Kavita Chhabra, spouse of H.E Ambassador Rahul Chhabra, a dance drama on the life of the Warrior Queen of India, Rani Laxmibai of Jhansi was performed. The drama was directed by Ms Panni Somi, renowned Bharatnatyam artist & leader of Sivasakti Kalananda Dance Theatre, Hungary and Ms Saumya Shukla, India based Kathak Performer & Teacher at ASCC. Pt Rajesh Gangani, Tabla Artist & Teacher at ASCC accompanied the artists and Dr. Kanchan Bharadwaj recited the poetry for the drama. English narration of the dance-drama was conducted by Ms Anna Simon.

The idea behind this dance drama was to showcase the spirit & strong role of women during India's struggle for Independence, and also to showcase a beautiful marriage of two distinct Indian Classical Dances - Kathak & Bharatnatyam. The main stations of the life of the warrior queen were depicted through dance movements & the text excerpts from the famous poem of Smt. Subhadra Kumar Chauhan.

The event was a big hit with international audience of Diplomatic spouse club, as it showcased the “Stree–Shakti” of India with the beautiful fusion of two very powerful classical dances of India- Bharat Natyam and Kathak on the strong beats of Tabla.

After the performance the guests were invited to a lunch at the Residence.

After the successful debut of this dance drama, the performance will also be showcased in ASCC on 6th December, 2016.
You would not be aiming to break any speed record with this? – I ask the man putting his rucksack into his rickshaw. ‘Speed record, I would not break, yet I might make history’ – he answers with a smile.

In the last few years we have gotten used to seeing some of the three wheeler bicycle taxis and auto rickshaws in the centre of Budapest that remind one of the rickshaws in India and in Thailand. Yet the car, or rather the creation, I am looking at is something so special that one has to examine it in detail. We are standing in the carpark outside the Indian Embassy’s Budapest compound. If one inspects the car, it looks like an elongated rickshaw with a caravan built on the top of it. The sides of the car are hand painted, underlining the vital message: “India to UK in solar Tuk-Tuk, 0 emission, 1 Solar Tuk-Tuk, 10 countries, 10.000 km.”

The smiling man is the young Indian innovator and adventurer Mr. Naveen Rabelli. He spent a few days in Budapest with his solar driven Tuk-Tuk on his journey from India to London. The idea of the project sounded so interesting to me that I asked him if he had time to talk about the invention.

Was the Tuk-Tuk your idea, and if it was, when did it come about – I ask.

The idea is from 2012. At that time I worked in Australia as an automotive engineer. In 2011, for holidays, I was visiting my hometown Bangalore in India. After living and working in Australia, it no longer seemed to be so obvious and so natural that India is polluting the air so heavily by its rickshaws, or as most people abroad call them by their name: Tuk-Tuks. It gave an extra angle to the question that since I was working in the car industry, I was part of the business that is so profoundly polluting the air. I became more and more obsessed with the idea that somebody has to take a step and stand up against global pollution. Somebody should bring a message to the world that society should be self-sustainable and based on renewable energy. I started asking myself why this somebody should not be me? I also felt that it should be an aim to inspire the young generation of the world to realize their dreams, that nothing is impossible.

From the original idea, how long did it take you to take off with your car?

After my holiday in India, I quit my job in Australia. I took off driving through Australia, New Zealand, and South East Asia. I bought and hired cars on the way. During my journey, I
was more and more unhappy about the pollution I caused with the cars I was driving. When I arrived in India, I got a job with the Indian electric car maker company, Mahindra Reva. The corporation was producing 4000 cars a year. At that time they were one of the biggest electric car makers in the world. Ever since my childhood, it was one of my dreams to go to London. As I was working in the factory, I was thinking more and more about the journey to London and about going with an electric car that I would build myself. Meanwhile, a friend from Argentina was visiting me in Bangalore. I talked to him as well about the trip I was dreaming about. He asked me: If you are going to build your own car, why don’t you make a Tuk-Tuk? That was what gave me the final idea about the shape of the car I wanted to travel thousands of kilometres in without using petrol. From the outset in 2012, it took me three years to build the vehicle called Tejas, which could be translated as solar “radiance”. I thought that this electric Tuk-Tuk could be an example of clean energy and travel, taking me from Hyderabad, India, to London, UK. The venture features a 0 emission 3-wheeler auto rickshaw running on solar power and battery. I thought that the idea to house my solar car in the body of a rickshaw – that is so well known for its high pollution – is good because my aim is to draw attention to the renewable clean energy and self-sustainable society.

**When did you take off from India?**

I have been on the road for six months now, as I took off on the 8th of February, 2016. So far, I have already driven for more than 11,000 km. through Dubai, Iran, Turkey, Greece, Bulgaria, and Serbia, before reaching Hungary. Here in Budapest, I visited the Embassy of India, and met His Excellency the Ambassador Rahul Chhabra.

**Did your Tuk-Tuk have any major breakdowns so far?**

“I had two setbacks, but since I was the one who built the car and I know electric cars, I could fix the problems.”

**You have already been to six countries. For decades, people in the West have been reading about Iran only as a terrorist fortress. What were your impressions of the Iranian people?**

All countries were different and all challenging. Iran in particular. The Iranians are extremely friendly and very helpful people. It was interesting that later in Europe, as I met refugees I met some who came from countries where there are no wars. They were not political, not even economic refugees; in fact, it was obvious that they had money. So I asked them: yours is a beautiful country not at war, why did you leave your homeland? They said: everybody is going somewhere.
According to the news that reaches us, there is more money in the West, so we would like to go to Germany. They also said: since we cannot get across the borders legally we would keep trying illegally until we would get where we wanted to go.

What other experiences did you have with the migrants as you were travelling on some of the roads they are using?

Seeing some real refugees, I felt ashamed of driving in my little car that seemed such an incredible luxury compared to their standards. In Serbia, I picked up some hitch-hikers who turned out to be migrants. They said they were from Syria, but most of them – including people obviously from Africa – also stated that they were Syrians. It is difficult to say why, but I felt very uncomfortable when these people were in the car. Somehow I did not feel safe. As we were coming to a slope, the car slowed down so much that it almost stopped. The three of us were too heavy for it so I had to ask them to get out. As I continued my journey, the Serbian police stopped me. They took me to the police station. They interrogated me for quite a while, asking where I left the people I picked up earlier. They were convinced that I was a smuggler. This was the part of the journey that I did not like; I felt that I was in danger.

What other unexpected events happened during your trip?

In Greece, I had an accident and I broke my arm.

What do you eat? Do you cook for yourself?

I eat what people give me or if they invite me, but I also cook for myself. What is more, in Belgrade, I even cooked Indian food for a quite a lot of people. It was such a success that people even offered me money for it.

You travel and stay in your Tuk-Tuk, but where do you wash?

When I pass a river, a pond, a lake, or the sea, then it is easy. If I am invited to somebody’s home, then I can have a shower or a bath if people tell me I am smelly. Part of the journey is networking. When I arrive somewhere, I am working on building contacts for my next stop or destination. This is particularly important when I go to big towns, so that I can park the car in somebody’s garden or courtyard, so it does not get broken into or stolen.

How many solar panels / batteries do you have?

I have six solar panels, three lithium batteries, and two with acid.
**How far can you go with one battery?**

One battery would take me 26 kilometres. My top speed is 60 km, the average speed is 45 km, usually I do 80 km a day. The most I have done in a day was 180 kilometres.

**What happens if the Sun is not shining for a week?**

I get 30% of my power from solar energy and 70% from electricity, so I can charge up my batteries.

**How long did it take you to plan your itinerary?**

It took me four months, partly because of the visas and special permits, the insurance and the registrations. But my date of departure was delayed because in India a Tuk-Tuk hit me.

**Did you work out how much time you would be spending in each country?**

I worked out the number of days for each country and for the whole trip all together. But the schedule gets upset if something unexpected is happening or not happening, like if there is no sunshine, and it rains for days.

**A trip like this is not only a question of time but also of money. How can you finance such a long trip?**

Obviously, it does help that I do not have to spend money on petrol. But I still need sponsors like Telangana Tourism. And as I have already indicated, networking, meeting good-hearted people helps a lot, as I can stay and eat with friends.

**Are you planning to go back the same way you came?**

It is too early to say because I still have a long way ahead of me. If I were to go back and take the Tuk-Tuk by boat that would cost me 3000 USD and that is too much. It is also possible that I might stay in Europe if I got a job.

**You spent a few days in Hungary, as well. How do you see us Hungarians and our country?**

I found Hungary an amazing country and I am not saying that because I am talking to a Hungarian. The architecture is so very different from the one I saw in Serbia. It is so nice to see so many people on bicycles. I have not even left Hungary but the people were so kind and helpful to me that I am missing Hungary already. Perhaps one day I will come back and visit the people whom I met and they became my friends. It also amazes me how much the people I met in Hungary know about India and how much interest and love they feel towards my home country.

**You set out to prove that your electric Tuk-Tuk could be an example of clean energy, and even of such a long-distance travel, as from Hyderabad to London. Perhaps more importantly, you tested not only the strength of solar energy, but the power of goodwill and your own endurance. When we Christians are on a long journey, we pray to Saint Christopher. You are a Hindu; who is your god to look after you on a journey?**

My god is the goodness in people.

More information on Mr. Naveen Rabelli’s journey can be found on the links below:

- https://www.facebook.com/ProjectTejas
- http://www.solartuktuk.com/
- http://www.indianembassy.hu/?p=131939

If you want to contact him for a news item, he can be approached through his email: project.tejas@gmail.com
Positive changes and Negative emotions

By Raji Nateshan

Change has mostly been synonymous to growth and moves to development. That being said, these two variables have been the only stationary aspects in my life. Even as a child I have experienced relocation frequently and have learned to adapt quickly. If not anything else, I can surely credit myself for being an enthusiastic and quick learner. If I sum up my learning in one word then that would be introspection, which encompasses understanding and accepting, people and situations. Although my family and friends would be better judges of how accepting I am, as a person, I personally think, I have been assimilating, and applying the knowledge I have been acquiring. Of late, I have been a bit unsettled with some developments in my personal life. Introspection is essential for personal development and it usually involves a trek down the memory lane.

As someone has aptly phrased, the “mind is a monkey” that keeps jumping on to random locations at random. My mind being no exception suddenly leaps into the future and leaves me in grief. One would agree, when I say that something, which is difficult to accept, leaves us in grief or anxiety. What could it be that I foresaw in my future, that I was resisting. Well, it could be as simple as my son graduating from high school and moving away to go to university. Or that he would eventually move on and pave a path for himself, independent of mine. Actually to accept the past and refer it for practical purposes would be the ideal way to live a fulfilling life in the present. That’s just what I intended to do. To draw clarity from the experience of my daughter moving out a year back, but thinking being an involuntary process, simply bound me to the nostalgic past.

Last year around this time, after helping my daughter settle in at her student residence, after touring her college campus, meeting her classmates and professors, and after attending the parent orientation, I was leaving her behind to return home. As the sliding glass doors of my train shut and the train started pulling out of the platform, I was standing onboard looking at my daughter’s tears streaming face with absolutely no visible reaction. From within, I felt proud of her accomplishment in being enrolled in a prestigious university and content about leaving her in a safe surrounding. In the months that followed, she was terribly homesick. There were times when she had made video calls and just sat and cried. She would sit and recount amid tears the family time we had spent watching movies, shopping, cooking, trekking, and even gossiping. She would cry bitterly saying she felt so constricted from within that her sternum hurt. In response, I would book her return tickets for a couple of days and that cheered her up. She felt like being wrenched out of the family. We all spoke to her individually, at different times, to not make it obvious that her return tickets for a couple of days and that cheered her up. She felt like being wrenched out of the family. We all spoke to her individually, at different times, to not make it obvious that here we were all together. Further, I went over, to celebrate her 18th birthday, she flew in for every break, and eventually we wound up the eventful year.

However, this year toward the end of the summer break she started saying that she felt something was amiss and that going back felt normal. The next day at the airport, after passing through the metal detector archway, she said in a choked voice that she would miss me. In her eyes, I could still see the child within her. I told her that I am proud of her and that I love her. A couple days after reaching and settling in, during a regular conversation, she said that though she was feeling lonesome and sad for having returned back to her place of “exile” she felt fine. She said that it felt like going back to regular life and that the silence of her room didn’t bother her anymore. The solitude felt familiar and didn’t overwhelm her. Overall, she said that she was at peace, and felt nothing like the sternum hurting of last year.

This is when my sternum started hurting. Because I understood that my daughter has finally found herself, has grown up, and transitioned from childhood to adulthood. Instead of being happy, I was crawling back to childhood. Hers or mine? I do not know. All I know is that I felt like a vital organ has been severed from my body. Something very precious has been detached from me. I was struggling to accept that my first-born has not only moved out but has truly moved on. Now I felt forlorn. I was no longer the indispensable one in my first-born’s life. She has always been much matured and self-reliant with absolute clarity of judgment and steadfast values. Now she was her own person. She was no longer the little girl who had wailed to stay on with me in the hospital when her baby brother was born and who used to look at me with pleading eyes to lift her up and hold her when her baby brother was asleep. The little girl on whose palms I used to make clumsy patterns with henna, and who thought that only I could make the best “village scene” drawings, has now, grown up.

I realized that it is not her moving out that hurt, but it’s her moving on. Accepting that her path is not entwined with mine anymore would unbind me. Actually, the innate human need to care for, to belong to, and to be needed by, had unsettled me. Though continuous moves have taught me detachment from tangibles, this sudden stuck-in situation has taught me to be more objective and develop positive emotional detachment. Perhaps, my in-depth introspection has led me to the awareness that I am trekking up toward the topmost pier of the “pyramid of needs” and I hope to reach the summit before I experience my son’s moving out and on.
Elvarázsolta India a Lélek Palotájába látogatókat

Nagyon szép fesztivált zárt a budapesti Hare Krisna templom (1039 Budapest, Lehel utca 15-17.) augusztus 21-én, mely India művészete és filozófiája köré épült. Az India Varázsa Fesztiválon 1400 vendég fordult meg a nap során, így egész nap tele volt a templom, vagy ahogyan a vendégek ismerik, a Lélek Palotája.

A rendezvény célkitűzése az volt, hogy szórakoztató és játékos módon bepillantást engedjen India ősi, védikus életmódjának területeibe. Köszönettel tartozunk, amiért ebben segítségünkre voltak az Indiia Nagykövetség vendégművészei is: Pandit Rajesh Gangani ji közreműködésével színvonalas tabla előadást hallhatott a közönség, Ms Saumya Shukla táncbemutatója pedig az egyik legnézettebb műsorszám volt. A színpadi program része volt még egyébek között a tűzceremóniával kísért védikus esküvő, fuvolajáték, tradicionális indiai zenei bemutatók, színdarab és harcművészeti bemutató.

A vendégek színes kirakodóvásárban válogathattak maguknak Indiával kapcsolatos portékákból. A szabadtéri kiépített hagyományos indiai tűzrakóknál látványfőzés során kísérhették figyelemelem, ahogyan az indiai konyhaművészetben jártas szakácsaink parathát, töltött dőszát és különféle szabdzsíkat készítenek. Éttermi sátrunkban számos hagyományos indiai fogás közül válogathattak, hiszen a kínálatban találhattunk dált, szabdziszt, porit, csatnít és pakórákat.

Az Ájurvédikus Szigeten tanácsadással, masszázzsal, fűszerismertetővel gazdagítottuk a rendezvényt. Művészei és szépségkertünkben lehetett selyemre mandalát festeni, indiai képeket kövekkel díszíteni, kanthi-malát és virágfüzért fűzni, valamint rádzsasztháni stílusban batikolni. A hölgyek rajongtak a henna festésért, örömmed öltözték száriba és viselték az indiai ékszereket, mint
például a tikát, a bokaláncot és a színes karkötőket. A férfiak is felpróbálhatták a hagyományos vaisnava öltözetet, a dhótít és a kurtát. A Ganga agyagából festettünk a homlokukra tilakát, a nőknek kunkummal bindít.

Vasztu sátrunkban háztervezési tanácsadást tartottunk, ugyanígy egész nap fogadták az erdeklődőket védikus asztrológiusaink is. A Bhaktivedanta Hittudományi Főiskola épületében előadásokat hallhattak tudományos és történelmi témában, de megismertedhettek a devanágari írásmóddal, a jógafilozófiával és a meditációval is.

A mandir templomtermében félóránként körvezetést tartottunk és beszélünk a múrt-ímat jelentőségéről. Nagy volt az erdeklődés a karma-labirintus és a reinkarnációs szituációs játék iránt, ahol játékos formában ismerhették meg a Védák tanításait.

Vendégeink nagy elégedettséggel tértek haza, egészen elvársolta őket India bölcsessége és ezernyi csodája.

Legközelebb október közepén az Indiát Gasztronómiai Nappal vártjuk Önöket is a Lélek Palotájában!

www.krisna.hu; www.lelekpalotaja.hu
Kétszemélyes játék

A maharadzsa és a szipojok nevet viselő kétszemélyes táblás játékból, amelyet két évszázadon át játszanak Indiában és a maláj szigeteken, éltrecért húsz évtizedig a hazaállás érzelme csendül meg. Az angol gyarmatosítók parancsnokai alatt szolgáló benniszülött zsoldosokkal, a szipojkakkal száll szembe a magányos maharadzsa.

A játék közös: ugyanaz a táblát használ, amelyen gyakran a bábu képeit is helyezik, és a hálózat azonos a sakkhoz.

A játékosok a táblán két oldalt játszanak, amit hangsúlyosan fel kell helyezniük a táblán, hogy megfeleljenek a tárgyak helyzeteinek. A játszók az első lépési lehetőségeket használják, hogy a máshoz képest előnyt nyerjenek.

A szipojok az első lépéshez képessé válnak a maharadzsánál, hogy a táblán levő figura mellett álljanak, és ezzel felállítsák a táblát. A maharadzsának meg kell adnia megfelelő lépését, hogy a táblán levő figura mellett álljon.

Amint látható, a küzdelem a maharadzsa győzelmével végződik. A második játszmában a játékosok helyet cserélnek, ezúttal a maharadzsa a tábla tetejéről, a szipojok pedig a tábla aljáról indulnak.

A maharadzsa és a szipojok

forrás: terebess.hu
The Palace of Mysore is a historical palace in the city of Mysore in Karnataka, southern India. It is the official residence and seat of the Wodeyars — the rulers of Mysore, the royal family of Mysore, who ruled the princely state from 1399 to 1950. The palace houses two durbar halls (ceremonial meeting halls of the royal court) and incorporates a mesmerizing and gigantic array of courtyards, gardens, and buildings. The palace is in the central region of inner Mysore, facing the Chamundi Hills eastward.

Mysore is commonly described as the City of Palaces. There are about seven palaces inclusive of this; however, Mysore Palace refers specifically to the one within the Old Fort. Built by the Maharaja Rajarshi His Highness Krishnarajendra Wadiyar IV, Mysore Palace is now one of the most famous tourist attractions in India, after the Taj Mahal, and has more than 6 million visitors annually.

Construction of the current palace was commissioned in 1897, completed in 1912, and expanded around 1940 (including the addition of the present Public Durbar Hall wing) during the reign of His Highness Maharaja Jayachamarajendra Wadiyar, the last Maharaja of Mysore Kingdom. The construction was completed in 1912, but the fort continued to be beautified and its inhabitants were slowly moved to the newer extension built off the palace.

Apart from the leonine Mysore Palace and Jaganmohan Palace (which, later, His Highness Maharaja Jayachamarajendra Wadiyar used as his art gallery and it remains an art gallery), the city has several other grand palaces like Jayalakshmi Vilas Mansion (now a folk art museum), Rajendra Vilas Mansion (now a private hotel atop Chamundi Hills), Lalitha Mahal Palace (now a five-star hotel), Laxmi Vilas Mansion, Cheluvamba Vilas Palace (the palace which His Highness Maharaja Sri Jayachamarajendra Wadiyar donated to the newly born Govt. of India; now the headquarters of Central Food Technological Research Institute, a national research institute), and Krishnarajendra Vilas Palace (now Krishna Rajendra Hospital). Besides there are buildings a century old or more, like Crowlard Hall (now the headquarters of the University of Mysore), Oriental Research Institute building, Corporation Complex of Mysore City Corporation, et cetera. In all the above palaces, the royal family holds blocks held by the kings traditionally. However, the Bangalore Palace and Mysore Palace are entirely under the possession of the royal family. Bangalore Palace remains entirely a private property of the princess.

Every autumn, the palace is the venue for the famous Mysore Dasara festival, during which leading artists perform on a stage set up in the palace grounds. On the tenth day of the festival Vijaya Dashami, a parade with caparisoned elephants and floats originate from the palace grounds. Dasara is the most extravagant festival of Mysore. It is celebrated in September and October of each year. The festival celebrates and commemorates the victory of the great Goddess Durga, also called Chamundeshwari, after she slew the demon Mahishasura, thereby symbolizing the triumph of good over evil according to Hindu mythology.

The palace complex includes twelve Hindu temples. The oldest was built in the 14th century, while the most recent was built in 1953.

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