

# AMRIT

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# Contents



Bilateral .....	3
Personality .....	8
Culture .....	10
Travel .....	20
Hungarian Section - Film .....	21
Hindi Section .....	23
Children's Corner .....	24

## AMRIT

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# Celebration of the Festival of Onam in Budapest

The group 'Keralites in Hungary' formed in 2009 to bring together those coming from Kerala or with a love for Malayalam in their heart and currently living in Hungary celebrated the Festival of Onam on 2nd October. This harvest festival is the biggest and most important event for all communities throughout the state of Kerala and is celebrated with great joy and enthusiasm at the beginning of the month of Chingam, the first month of the Malayalam Calendar.



Madam Chhabra, Ambassador Chhabra and Mr TPS Rawat, Director of ASCC with Members of the Keralites in Hungary

As Chief Guests of the event, Ambassador and Madam Chhabra lit the ceremonial lamp to open the cultural event after which Ambassador addressed the community and greeted all those present on this festive occasion.

Both Ambassador and Madam Chhabra enjoyed immensely the cultural program including a Thiruvathira Dance by ladies of the

community and the traditional Onam lunch, a vegetarian meal served on banana leaf with several dishes and rice. ■

## Commemorating the Birth of Mahatma Gandhi at Gandhi School in Pécs



**LEFT:** Ambassador, Madam Chhabra and Mr Prabal Datta, managing director of TCS during their tour of the Gandhi School in Pécs. **RIGHT:** Ambassador delivering his welcoming speech on the festive occasion

A special celebration dedicated to the anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi was held on October 3, 2016 at the

Gandhi School in the city of Pécs. The commemorative programme was organized jointly by the Embassy of India,

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), and the Gandhi School in Pécs, with Ambassador and Madam Chhabra attending as chief guests of the event.

Upon their arrival, the Embassy delegation was received by Ms Ildikó Déri, the principal of the school whereupon they visited two classes and toured the campus.

The official cultural programme started with a flower offering at the statue of Gandhi and put on stage breathtaking performances of both Indian and Roma culture and

excerpts from the life of the Mahatma.

Delivering a heart-warming celebratory speech Ambassador officially opened the festivities which then continued with yoga classes, henna paintings and colourings, dance houses, Indian tea house, several games and contests for the students.

TCS, represented by Mr Prabal Datta, managing director made a donation of 20 computers and 100 books to the school. As a signal of their long term commitment, TCS also signed an MOU with the School. ■

## Visit of H.E. Mr Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Hon'ble Vice President of India



**LEFT:** Ambassador and Madam Chhabra receiving Hon'ble Vice President and Madam Ansari at the airport upon their arrival. **RIGHT:** Mr István Manno, Chief of Protocol, MFA, Hon'ble Vice President Ansari, Ambassador, H.E. Mr István Ígyártó, State Secretary for Cultural and Science Diplomacy, MFA, H.E. Mr Gyula Pethő, Ambassador of Hungary to India and Dr Sándor Sipos, DG of the Asia Pacific Department, MFA during the reception at India House

After decades in the history of Indo-Hungarian diplomatic relations a high-profile visit from the Indian government took place in Hungary. H.E. Mr. Mohammed Hamid Ansari, Hon'ble Vice President of India arrived on 15th October with his wife Smt. Salma Ansari and his delegation of representatives of the government which included Hon'ble Mansukh L Mandavia, Minister of State for Chemical and Fertilizer, several members of the Parliament and other senior officials of the government.

During the meetings of the three-days official visit the Indian delegation was accompanied by Ambassador and Madam Chhabra, members of the



Madam Ansari and Madam Chhabra with the ladies of the Indian Community during the reception at India House





As representative of the Government of India Ambassador signing an MOU with Vice President Ansari and Mr Viktor Orbán, Hon'ble PM of Hungary presiding over in the background



**LEFT:** Hon'ble Vice President Ansari commemorating his visit at the Parliament where he met Hon'ble Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr László Kövér (right) **RIGHT:** Following the footsteps of Tagore, Hon'ble Vice President Ansari planting a saple in the India Garden in Balatonfüred

Embassy and from the Hungarian Government, Dr Sándor Sipos, DG of the Asia Pacific Department, Mr István Manno, Chief of Protocol and several other officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. H.E. Mr Gyula Pethő, Ambassador of Hungary to India also flew home for the special visit to take part in the official programme.

As a curtain raiser of the visit, Ambassador and Madam Chhabra gave a reception in honour of Hon'ble Vice President and Madam Ansari with the attendance of members of the Indian community. In his welcoming speech Vice President Ansari highlighted the importance of his visit to Hungary with a look at the history of both the diplomatic and cultural relations of the two countries. He also expressed his happiness over seeing such a big and active community of fellow Indians in Hungary with the hope of further expanding the commercial, business cooperation and strengthening the one-on-one, human relationship between the two nations. Vice President Ansari and Madam Ansari then met all the invitees of the evening among whom were businessmen and –women, envoys of Indian culture (dance,

music and language) and several Indian student currently enrolled at Hungarian universities.

The day of 16 October started with Vice President Ansari laying a wreath at Heroes' Square to pay his respects to the history and culture of the host country. Following the ceremony Shri Ansari was received by H.E. Mr Viktor Orbán, Prime Minister of Hungary at the Parliament where they first had a private meeting at the historic room of the Nándorfelhérvári Hall. During the plenary meeting of the delegation level talks the ongoing cooperation and the possible avenues of expanding the bilateral relations in the field of business, water management, defence, film industry etc. were discussed between the two high-ranking dignitaries. Following the talks, representatives of the two governments signed two MOUs of Cooperation Agreement. During the press conference, PM Orbán assured India of Hungary's support in the global theatre of diplomacy and highlighted the need for investors such as the Indians proved to be. The meeting concluded with banquet lunch hosted by PM Orbán.



**LEFT:** H.E. Ambassador Gyula Pethő, Hon'ble President of Hungary, Mr János Áder, Vice President Ansari and Ambassador during the meeting at Sándor Palace. **RIGHT:** Vice President Ansari giving his lecture on Indian Democracy to the room-full audience at Corvinus University (left to right: Ambassador, Vice President Ansari, Dr András Lángi, Rector, Dr László Szabó, State Secretary, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Prof Tamás Pesuth, Director of International Affairs)



In the afternoon, Vice President Ansari along with Madam Ansari and his delegation visited Balatonfüred, the beautiful town of great significance in the Indo-Hungarian relationship where they were received by Dr István Bóka, the mayor of Balatonfüred. Following the century old tradition established during the visit of Tagore, Vice President Ansari planted a sapling of a Manna Ash tree to commemorate his visit and paid his respects at the bust of the great poet by offering flower petals. After the official ceremony, the delegation was taken on a boat ride on the lake and the event concluded with a traditional Hungarian dinner at the local 'csárda' (traditional tavern of the Hungarian country-side).

On 17 October H.E. Mr Hamid Ansari was received by H.E. Mr László Kövér, Hon'ble Speaker of the National Assembly at the Parliament. Following their talks, Vice President paid an official visit to H.E. Mr János Áder, President of Hungary.

At the end of his official visit, Vice President Ansari visited Corvinus University and met the leaders of the educational institute. He also gave a lecture with the title "Indian Democracy: Achievements and Challenges". The programme ended with an engaging Q&A session between the Vice President and members of the audience who filled the lecture hall for the event. ■

## Gandhi's Outstanding Leadership book launch event at CEU

On 24 October Pascal Alan Nazareth retired Ambassador of India released the Hungarian version of his book 'Gandhi's Outstanding Leadership' during an event co-organized by the Department of History of Central European University and the Embassy of India in Budapest. Ambassador Nazareth was introduced by Ambassador who spoke eloquently about Mahatma Gandhi's faith in the principles of truth and non-violence which have inspired so many. During the book launch Ambassador Nazareth gave a public lecture where he spoke about the inspirations for writing his book and the importance and relevance of Gandhi's persona and philosophy in our modern world. ■



Ambassador Nazareth (retired) and Ambassador Chhabra launching the book 'Gandhi's Outstanding Leadership' at the Central European University in Budapest



## AYURVEDA DAY



**LEFT:** Ambassador with Vaidya Dr Saurabh Sharma, senior doctor and director of Maharishi Ayurveda Clinic in New Delhi, Dr Péter Tóth, President of the Hungarian Ayurvedic Scientific Association (by the right of Ambassador), Dr Iván Szalkai ayurveda doctor, Reader of Miskolc University (far right) and other organisers of the event.

**CENTER:** Ambassador delivering his welcome address to the audience. **RIGHT:** Ambassador is given a tour of the Bijó Health Centre before the official opening of the event

Ambassador spoke about the importance of preserving the methods and philosophy of Ayurveda, the traditional medicine of ancient India during the opening ceremony of the 2nd Ayurveda Experience Day at Bijó Health Centre in Budapest on 29 October. During the event lectures were delivered by experts of Ayurveda on several aspects of traditional methods and how to apply them in our every-day life and how to cure several symptoms and illnesses plaguing

our modern-day existence. Among these dedicated healers were Dr Saurabh Sharma, the senior doctor and director of the Maharishi Ayurveda Clinic of New-Delhi as well. During his visit as a Chief Guest of the event Ambassador met several renowned experts and doctors, directors and leaders of Ayurveda Associations of Hungary. The colourful event also housed a fair and bazaar, several demonstrative treatments and exercises to restore and preserve health. ■

## Official Visit to the University of Szeged



**LEFT:** Ambassador and Madam Chhabra during the meeting with Prof Dr Gábor Szabó, Rector and Prof Dr Katalin Nagy, Vice Rector of the University of Szeged. **RIGHT:** Group photo commemorating the meeting of Ambassador and Madam Chhabra with the Indian students enrolled at the University

Ambassador and Madam Chhabra paid an official visit to the University of Szeged on 3rd November. Their official programme included a meeting with Prof Dr Gábor Szabó, Rector and Prof Dr Katalin Nagy, Vice Rector for Foreign Affairs during which they discussed the possible avenues of further cooperation in the near future. Moreover, Ambassador and Madam Chhabra met the visiting professor, Ms Sumita Rai, professor of the Management Development Institute and the Indian students enrolled at the University to listen to

experiences of their lives in Hungary and at the University.

Besides their official programme, they brought the spirit of India with them as well to the city. Ambassador gave a lecture on 'India-Hungary relations in a globalizing world', while Madam Chhabra spoke on the history and cultural significance of the traditional women's wear in India, the Sari. The cultural programme concluded with a beautiful Kathak performance by Ms Saumya Shukla and her students and a breath-taking tabla performance by Pandit Rajesh Gangani. ■

# SARDAR PATEL: AN ICON OF NATIONAL UNITY

BY MANISH CHAND

An extraordinary leader, freedom fighter and architect of the integration of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, better known as “Iron Man of India,” remains an enduring icon of patriotism, nationalism and the spirit of public service. In a fitting tribute to this giant, India will be launching week-long celebrations on Sardar Patel’s birth anniversary on October 31, which has been aptly designated as Rashtriya Ekta Divas or National Unity Day.

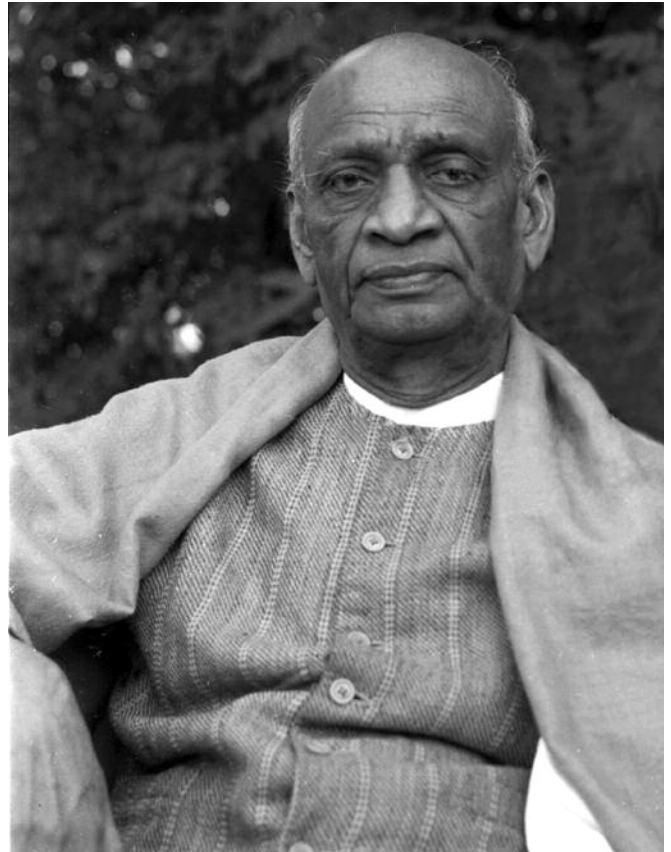
## Making of a Legend: Grit & Steel

A quintessential self-made man, Patel’s life story exemplifies the sheer power of will, hard work and sincerity as he scripted a new life for himself first as a lawyer, and then as a freedom fighter and nation-builder amid trying circumstances. Born on October 31, 1875 in the influential Patidar community, he did his early schooling in Gujarat and decided to study law in London. But the untimely death of his father plunged the family into a financial crisis. Fired by his steely determination, which was to remain his defining trait till the end, the young Patel “studied very earnestly for the law examination and resolved firmly to save sufficient money for a visit to England.” He finished his LL.B from the Middle Temple, England in June 1912 in a record two-and-a-half years and returned to India. His formidable legal acumen earned him a dedicated clientele, and he became a much sought-after lawyer earning thousands of rupees every month. All this success and money, however, did not go to his head; on the contrary, it only kindled his thirst to do something for society and leave a lasting legacy. “No doubt, my practice is flourishing today. I am also doing something big in the Municipality. But, my practice may or may not be there tomorrow. My money will be blown tomorrow, those who inherit my money will blow it. Let me leave them a better legacy than money,” Patel wrote later about this key moment which was to drive him to dedicate his life to the nation.

## The Gandhi Moment

A chance meeting with Mahatma Gandhi at the Gujarat Club in Ahmedabad in 1915 strengthened his resolve. Inspired by the life and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi, Patel became Gandhi’s ardent follower, and a fellow traveller in India’s freedom journey. In 1918, Vallabhbhai Patel transformed into Sardar Patel when he led the farmers’ agitation against the British who insisted on collecting tax despite a raging flood in Khaira, Gujarat. He led a successful and peaceful “No Tax campaign” which forced the British authorities to return then land taken away from the farmers. Patel’s heroic efforts to mobilise farmers earned him the title of Sardar, which means ‘chief’ in Hindi and Urdu.

Sardar Patel later on deftly deployed the Gandhian



methods of peaceful resistance many times in defending the rights of farmers, the subjugated and the exploited. In 1930, Sardar Patel was imprisoned for participating in the Salt Satyagraha launched by Mahatma Gandhi. His eloquent speeches during the salt movement inspired thousands to join Gandhi’s mission of emancipating India from the clutches of foreign rule.

Despite internal wrangling in the Indian National Congress, Patel remained a staunch supporter and ally of Mahatma Gandhi. The differences over the course of the freedom movement came out in the open when veteran leaders questioned the logic and efficacy of civil disobedience movement linked to Gandhi’s Quit India Movement in 1942. Sardar Patel robustly rallied to Gandhi’s defence, and eventually the All India Congress Committee was compelled to ratify and sanction the Quit India Movement.

## Unifier of India: Iron Man

Given his formidable organizational abilities and unflinching commitment to nation-building, Sardar Patel was appointed as the first deputy prime minister and home minister of independent India, the crucial posts which



brought out the best in him and help create an integrated and unified India as we know it now. Patel the Unifier is justly remembered for his iron will and firmness with which he facilitated the integration of over 500 princely states into the framework of federal India. Patel used his fabled powers of persuasion and diplomacy, and combined it with a judicious use of the threat of force to get 565 princely states to accede to India. This was a monumental feat which earned him mass adoration and gratitude, cementing his reputation as the Iron Man of India.

In the aftermath of Partition, Patel was to show his extraordinary concern for refugees, regardless of their religion. Moved by their plight, Patel organized relief for refugees fleeing from Punjab and Delhi and spearheaded efforts to restore peace across the nation.

### Patel: A social reformer

An appraisal of Patel's legacy would be incomplete without his role as a social reformer and thinker. His efforts to reform the Hindu religion went side by side with his unstinting commitment to religious freedom. In the economic realm; Sardar Patel tirelessly championed self-sufficiency and promoting the growth of domestic industries by harnessing indigenous resources, talent and expertise.

The idea of the state as an enabler of national development and resurgence animated Patel's thinking. His vision of the State was in tune with the political values he propagated. Nationalism and patriotism were not only the foundation stones of a state, but were the core elements holding it together. In Patel's thinking, individual liberty had to be in consonance with the provisions of the Constitution. To create a modern nation, he promoted the emancipation of backward communities and women through the Gandhian programmes and expertly utilized the higher castes for social integration and political mobilisation.

### Patel the Globalist

A pragmatist and realist to the core, Patel was a sharp observer of the international scene and advocated a realistic foreign policy in place of a symbolic idealism. He consistently advocated that no move must be adopted that would compromise the territorial integrity of India, and in particular, cautioned against internationalizing the Kashmir dispute. "I should like to make one thing clear, that we shall not surrender an inch of Kashmir territory to anybody," Patel famously said.

While espousing friendly relations with India's neighbors, Patel was quick to recognize that warmth should not be interpreted as weakness. In November of 1950, Patel wrote a letter to PM Nehru outlining how the Chinese troops' entry into Tibet earlier that year resulted in a situation that "for the first time, after centuries, India's defence has to concentrate itself on two fronts simultaneously." Patel had suggested that "we have to consider what new situation now faces us as a result of the disappearance of Tibet as we know

it, and the expansion of China up to our gates". Patel's cautionary note was to prove prophetic when China invaded India in 1962.

### Patel's Legacy: Nation-builder

Sardar Patel may have lived only two and a half years after India's independence, but in those few months, he shaped the narrative of a modern, strong and self-reliant India. Often compared to Germany's legendary leader Otto von Bismarck for his key role in the integration of princely states into India, Patel contributed to nation-building in myriad ways. He was a leading light in the Constituent Assembly of India and played a pivotal role in the appointment of Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar as the chairman of the drafting committee, and the inclusion of leaders from across the political spectrum in the process of scripting the constitution.

Not many know it, but Sardar Patel was the founding father of the Indian Administrative Service and the Indian Police Service, and introduced articles to protect the independence and impartiality of the civil services.

Besides his colossal achievements, Sardar Patel exemplified humility and Gandhian ideals of simple living and high thinking. His personality was such that he inspired instant respect and affection, even amongst those who differed with him. He remained hugely popular till his dying day. More than a million people attended his cremation in Sonapur in Bombay, which included Prime Minister Nehru, C. Rajagopalachari, and President Rajendra Prasad. In a tribute to his role in creating civil services, more than 1,500 officers of India's civil and police services gathered to mourn at Patel's residence in Delhi a day after his death and pledged "complete loyalty and unremitting zeal" in India's service.

### Freedom Song

Decades after his death, Sardar Patel's absolute love and devotion for India continues to inspire all those who are engaged in the resurgence of India. Tributes and honours continue to pour in for this legendary figure to this day. Time magazine put Sardar Patel on the cover in its **January 27, 1947 issue**, and called him "The Boss." Sardar Patel was finally conferred India's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna, in 1991.

In his public life and as a founding father of the Republic of India, he tirelessly exhorted people to live true to their ideals and place country and society above self. In the conflicted times we live in, Sardar Patel's **address at a meeting in Alwar in 1948** is an eloquent reminder to the people of the responsibilities of a free citizen to ensure their freedom and that of their country. "Guns can protect freedom from aggressive designs of neighbours or other foreign states. But internally, it is the honest core of the people and the true realisation of the responsibilities of a free citizen that alone can save freedom from the machinations of self-seeking and interested parties and individuals." ■

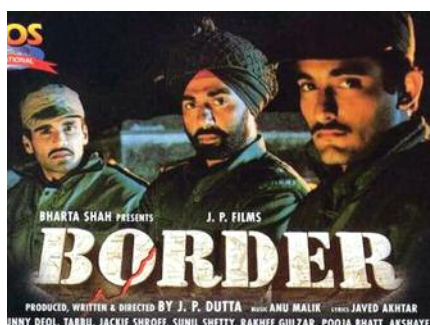
# ASCC ACTIVITIES

## Indian Film Club

ASCC organized a 7-day Film Festival in Puskin Cinema from 6-12 October, one film was screened under the regular Film Club at the Cultural Centre in October, 2016:

On **28.10.2016** Phir milenge was screened (2004, Hindi). Two films were screened under the regular Film Club at the Cultural Centre in November, 2016: On **11.11.2016** Black (2005, Hindi) was screened and on **25.11.2016** Border (1997, Hindi).

The movies both in the Centre and in Puskin Cinema were subtitled in Hungarian language and were very well-received by the audience. Around 60 persons attended the screening of Phir Milenge on 28.10.2016.



## OCCASIONAL PROGRAMMES in ASCC

### Bharatanatyam workshop and performance by Ms Kirti Ramgopal 3 & 4 October 2016

Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre organized Bharatanatyam workshop and dance performance by Kirti Ramgopal on 3 and 4 October, 2016, respectively. Bharathanatyam, the supreme Indian classical dance that skillfully embodies the three primary ingredients of Dance – Rhythm, Rhyme and Expression, fascinated Kirti Ramgopal at a tender age. With her passion, focus and rigorous training, she is acclaimed as one of the brightest talents in her generation.

During the workshop on 3rd October Kirti demonstrated to students a vibrant number titled Subramanya Kauthuvam describing Lord Shanmukha with crisp nritya passages. In the end of the workshop



Kirti holding workshop for students

the students were given the music of the item.

On the day of the performance on 4.10.2016, Director ASCC introduced Ms Kirti Ramgopal to the audience and shared with the audience the efforts of ICCR in promoting cultural exchanges for developing cultural and bilateral relations between the two countries. Then followed the breathtaking performance of the artist.



Kirti Ramgopal performing





Group photo in the end of the performance

Bharatnatyam classical dance for one and half hours by Ms Ramgopal which kept the audience spellbound. Ms Ramgopal performed Radha Krishna, Krishna Yashoda and Mahabharata stories. It was a houseful event attended by around 100 viewers. The audience repeatedly applauded the performance.

### Indian Film Week – Bollywood Blockbusters, Puskin Cinema 6-12 October 2016

Following its long-time tradition, The Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre organized a film festival at the prestigious Puskin Cinema of Budapest from 6-12th October, 2016. This year's film week showcased Hindi cinema of India, commonly known as Bollywood, with a purpose of presenting the many faces and colours of this unique part of film industry. To realize this concept, the organisers selected a variety of blockbusters from several eras of Bollywood and endeavoured to bring a wide selection of different genres and movie types to the cinema hall.

The list featured two pieces of the so called family and marriage movies, a genre highly popular in the West but lesser-known in Hungary, including the trend setting classic and the latest production of our time from the family movie series of seven, associated with the director Sooraj R. Barjatya. These movies glamourize the conservative Indian lifestyle of the large families while the countless

religious and family celebrations, rituals, customs and traditions play crucial role in their stories. In 1994 the exotic Hum Aapke Hain Koun spiced with numerous songs and dance items launched a trend of this genre and gained massive popularity for Bollywood in the western world. Premiered in 2015, Prem Ratan Dhan Payo was a fine example of how much can be taken from these film types and be transformed into contemporary and enjoyable entertainment for the audience of today. The most beautiful piece of eternal classic from the king of romances, Yash Chopra, Veer-Zaara, the story of a Hindu-Muslim love saga with a fantastic cast of the greatest stars was the highest visited show during the week. In contrast, the third romance in our programme, Dum Laga Ke Haisha was a heart-

warming representative of a new, boldly innovative, experimenting trend which, from time to time uses the methods of art cinema and questions traditional clichés of the industry. Premiered in 2016, the latest crime hit, Wazir was also scheduled to be screened during the film week. The closing accord of the festival was a real delicacy. Science fiction movies are rarely made in India, but Koi... mil gaya, hitting cinemas in 2003 became such a blockbuster that, together with its sequel series they launched the successful journey of superhero-movies. However, Koi...mil gaya is still of mixed genres which blends and serves the western elements with Indian flavours.

The Inauguration of the evening was preceded by a Reception held at Puskin Cafe by Ambassador on 6th October, 2016, which was attended 80 guests comprising leaders, bureaucrats, film fraternity, journalists and Indologists. The Festival was inaugurated with Flower offering Ceremony to Lord Ganesha, by Ambassador Rahul Chhabra ; Madam Kavita Chhabra; Dr Péter Medgyessy, former Prime Minister of Hungary, Dr Sándor Sipos, DG, Asia Pacific



Mr Rahul Chhabra, Ambassador of India , Dr Sándor Sipos, DG, Asia Pacific Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Madam Kavita Chhabra with Dr Péter Medgyessy, former PM watching the film



Dr Sándor Sipos, DG, Asia Pacific Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, HE Rahul Chhabra, Ambassador of India, Madam Chhabra, Dr Peter Medgyessy with audience



Flower Ceremony with Dr Sándor Sipos, DG, Asia Pacific Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Rahul Chhabra, Ambassador of India and Mr T.P.S. Rawat, Director of Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre



Dr Imre Lázár, Senior Advisor,  
Department for Bilateral Relations,  
Ministry of Human Capacities, Mrs  
Imre Lázár and Mr Rahul Chhabra,  
Ambassador of India

Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Dr Imre Lázár, Senior Advisor, Department for Bilateral Relations, Ministry of Human Capacities and Mr T.P.S Rawat, Director of Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre. The Film Week started with the screening of Prem Ratan Dhan Payo (The treasure of love), an Indian romantic comedy featuring Salman Khan.

List of films screened during the film week is:

6th October 2016

Found a Treasure Called Love  
(Prem Ratan Dhan Payo)

7th October 2016

Go for it! (Dum Laga Ke Haisha)

8th October 2016

Veer-Zaara

9th October 2016

Who am I to You? (Hum Aapke Hain Koun?)

10th October 2016

Vizier (Wazir)

11th October 2016

Shameless (Besharam)

12th October 2016

I Found... Someone (Koi... Mil Gaya)

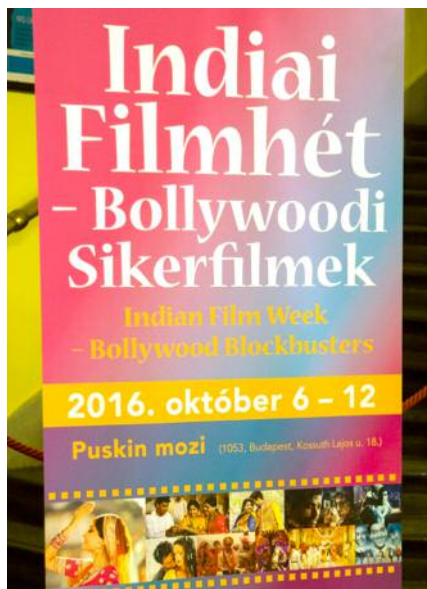
The Film Festival was a big success



Dr Péter Medgyessy, former PM and  
Ambassador in discussion



Mrs Kavita Chhabra  
talking to Ms Saumya



Roll-ups for the event

and all 7 films attracted full houses during the festival which shows the popularity of Indian cinema in Hungary. The Festival also helped in promoting and popularising Indian cinema in Hungary.

**Cultural programme organized in honor of Mrs Salma Ansari in Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre, Budapest**  
**17 October 2016**



Mrs Ansari arriving  
at the Cultural Centre



Lamp lighting ceremony

A cultural program was organized on 17.10.2016 in Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre in honor of Smt Salma Ansari wife of Honorable Vice President of India, Shri Hamid Ansari who visited Hungary from 15-17th October, 2016. The event was attended by around 100 students and teachers from Mahatma Gandhi School of Pécs & Dr Ambedkar School of Sajókaza. Mrs Katalin Langerné Victor, Dy. Secretary for Social Inclusion & Mr Imre Sipos, Deputy State Secretary for Public Education represented the Hungarian side.





Mr T.P.S. Rawat welcoming the guests



School children performing on stage

L to R: Dr Kanchan Bhardwaj,  
Mrs Richa Nigam, Ms Saumya Shukla,  
Mrs Anita RawatDonation of USD 15,000/-  
each for the schools

Programme started with Director (ASCC) welcoming guests and introducing Smt Salma Ansari to the guests and students and spoke about the close bond Embassy has with the two schools. Director also thanked ICCR for providing statues of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr Ambedkar to the two schools which further deepened the cooperation between Embassy and the two schools. This was followed by colorful dance & music of Roma tradition along with Indian patriotic Songs performed by the students of the two schools. Mr János Orsós Founder & Mr Tibor Derdák, (Founders & Principal of Ambedkar School) & Ms Ildikó Déri (Principal of Gandhi School) spoke about the close bonding two schools have with India & thanked Embassy for its continuous support from time to time. On this occasion, Smt Ansari handed over the donation of US\$ 15,000/- each to the principals of two schools as further support and co-operation from Govt. of India. Donation ceremony was very well received by Principals, teachers and students. Mrs Katalin Langerné Victor, Dy. Secretary for Social Inclusion spoke about multiple programmes of Government of Hungary for the education of Roma children.

Smt Ansari spoke about the importance of education for children of underprivileged section to assimilate them in the mainstream of the society. The programme concluded with serving of delicious Indian lunch to the guests and students.

### **The various aspects of God Vishnu - Odissi dance performance by Vera Szirmay**

**25 October 2016**

On 25th October Dr Vera Szirmay (Vienna) performed in Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre. The artist, who is of Hungarian origin, is the best Odissi dancer in Europe and teaches in Austria.

Vera-Viktória Szirmay combines theatre studies (Vienna University),



Dr Vera Szirmay performing

Director giving a bouquet  
to Dr Vera Szirmay

Group photo

dance art and choreography in her work in theory and practice. After graduating as dance artist from the Hungarian State Opera she started to dedicate her talent for dance and interpretation to Odissi. Since 1994 she has been continuously training under the guidance of Padmashri Madhavi Mudgal at the Gandharva Mahavidhyalaya Institute in New Delhi. Based in Vienna, Vera-Viktória Szirmay teaches and performs internationally. She recently joined the “Konservatorium Wien Privatuniversität” as a balett master.

Director (ASCC) welcomed the audience and introduced Mr Vera Szirmay to the audience and informed the audience about ICCR's objectives in strengthening cultural relations.

The programme consisted of the following items:

1. Jagannátha Swami
2. Lalita Lavanga Ashtapádi
3. Arabhi Pallavi
4. Dashavatara Sound Impression
5. Dashavatara
6. Moksha

All the items depicted one of the avatars of Vishnu. His several attitudes and stories came into life in the wonderful performance. The most popular one was the Dashavatara piece, depicting the 10 forms of the god. The graceful dance of Ms Szirmay was well appreciated by the audience. Director honored the performance with flower bouquet in the end of the show. The programme was full house and was attended by around 110 viewers.

### India Day in Albertfalva Közösségi House

**29 October 2016**

On 29 October 2016 Diwali celebrations and India Day was organized in Albertfalva Community House in 11th district of Budapest. It was jointly organized by Mayor's office of 11th District and the Embassy. This was the



Ms Saumya Shukla's students performing



Ms Saumya Shukla performing

second time such an event was organized in the 11th District. The celebrations included several programmes including childrens' corner, literature corner, photo corner, food tasting in House, Indian story reading, Indian clothes and Indian handicrafts corner.

After the welcome speech of the organizers, Director(ASCC) greeted the audience and wished audience Happy Deepavali. He also thanked organisers for organizing Deepavali celebrations and India Day in the prestigious 11th District.

This was followed by cultural programme with the contribution of Embassy of India and Department of Indo-European Studies, ELTE University. Pandit Rajesh Gangani, Tabla Teacher at ASCC performed his solo composition. Ms Saumya Shukla, Kathak Teacher at ASCC performed Kathak solo which was followed by her lecture cum power point presentation on Kathak Dance. Six students of Kathak Dance who are being trained by Ms Shukla at ASCC also performed a Kathak composition. There were lecture-presentations about Diwali held by young

Indologists; Dr Dileep Shakya, Visiting Professor from India recited Hindi poems. There were Punjabi dhol, Odissi dancers, Bollywood show in the programme. Henna corner was a big hit with the audience as there was big queue at the counter for Henna painting.

This year audience presence was double than the last year. All in all it was a very colorful, very lively day spent together celebrating the most important festival of India.

### ITEC Day Celebration 4 November 2016



H.E. Mr István Íggyártó, Minister of State for Cultural and Science Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Rahul Chhabra, Ambassador of India, Dr Imre Lázár, Senior Advisor, Department for Bilateral Relations, Ministry of Human Capacities Mr Pravindra Yadav, Minister of Audit and Dr Mátyás Módos



Dr Sándor Sipos, Dg Asia-Pacific Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Madam Kavita Chhabra





Ambassador greeting the audience



Ms Saumya Shukla performing



**LEFT:** Pt. Rajesh Gangani performing. **RIGHT:** Ms Melinda Irtl speaking about ITEC course in India

ITEC Day was celebrated in Embassy of India, Budapest, on November 4, 2016. H.E. Mr István Íggyártó, Minister of State for Cultural and Science Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

Ambassador Rahul Chhabra, in his inaugural address, gave an overview of the ITEC programme, stressing that it was an important pillar of bilateral cooperation with Hungary. Ambassador added that apart from training courses, ITEC programme offers expertise in several other areas such as feasibility studies, projects, deputation of experts abroad, which could also be explored to enhance further collaboration with Hungary.

The Chief Guest, H.E. Mr István Íggyártó, mentioned that India and Hungary shared an excellent bilateral relationship, encompassing diverse areas. He referred to increased Indian

investments in Hungary and the scholarship scheme, which would further enhance bilateral cooperation.

This was followed by presentations by three ITEC alumni – Mr Zsolt Becsey, who did Diploma in Small Business Planning and Promotion (SBPP) at National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development, and Ms Krisztina Szabó, who did a Certificate Course in Performance Management Systems: a Strategic Tool at International Management Institute, and Ms Melinda Irtl Földiné, who did the course of Special Training Programme for Yoga Trainers at SVYASA Yoga University. They offered positive insights into the training programmes, and also spoke about the wonderful facilities offered by the Government of India and how much they enjoyed their studies in India.

Ms Saumya Shukla, Kathak teacher cum performer at the Amrita Sher-Gil

Cultural Centre presented two wonderful Kathak dance performances, which was followed by a Tabla solo performed by Pt. Rajesh K. Gangani, teacher cum performer at the Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre. The performances were followed by a short documentary about ITEC scholarship and a reception.

Almost 60 people attended the ITEC Day celebrations, which included ITEC and ICCR alumnus, prominent members of Hungarian Ministries, journalists, Academicians, Indologists and members of the Embassy.

**Rashtriya Ekta Divas / National Unity Day. Sardar Patel: An Icon of National Unity, a social reformer**  
**15 November 2016**

Commemorating the 141st birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Embassy of India screened a documentary titled “*Man of Silence – Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel*” (English, 39



Mr Vijay Khanduja speaking about Sardar Patel



Documentary screening: Man of Silence



Photo exhibition depicting the life of Sardar Patel

min) at 17.00 before the Rudra-veena concert organized in the Centre. A photo exhibition depicting the life of Sardar Patel was also organized in the Exhibition Hall before and after the event. An extraordinary leader, freedom fighter and architect of the integration of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, better known as "Iron Man of India,"

remains an enduring icon of patriotism, nationalism and the spirit of public service.

In a fitting tribute to the great leader, Embassy of India held Rashtriya Ekta Divas in ASCC for members of Embassy and public audience too.

### **Rudra-veena concert by Sharada Mushti** 15 November 2016



Sharada Mushti performing



Director giving a bouquet to the artist

This was the second time that Hungarian audience could enjoy the rare Rudra-veena concert in Hungary. She arrived with his guru, Rajeev Janardan, who performed two days later in the Centre.

Sharada had been introduced to Indian and World music at a very early age which led to an in-depth understanding of the same. Her lifelong engagement in many musical genres and instruments prepared her for her Rudravina.

The instrument found Sharada in Paris, where she was captivated by its rolling drone and stunning form on display in a museum. Compelled to



Group photo in the end of the performance

explore the Rudravina, she returned to India to find a guru to train her in this form of music and to have her own instrument crafted. Under the Guru Shishya Parampara she began her intense riyaz sessions, sometimes studying up to ten hours a day. With the assistance of her Guru, Pandit Rajeev Janardan, she developed her technical and vocal skills in Dhrupad and Dhamar, a comprehensive knowledge of the ragas, sophistication in her ragadari, all of which lent her the precision of expression making her music such an achievement.

The rudra veena (also known as been or bin; Hindi: रूद्रवीणा) is a large plucked string instrument used in Hindustani classical music. It has a long tubular body made of wood or bamboo with a length between 54 and 62 inches. Two large-sized, round resonators, made of dried and hollowed gourds, are attached under the tube. Twenty-four brass-fitted raised wooden frets are fixed on the tube with the help of wax. There are 4 main strings and 3 chikari strings.

Rudra is one of the several names of Shiva, the Hindu god. It is an ancient instrument, which is rarely played in India.

### **Sitar performance by Rajeev Janardan (Sitar) and Mr Tibor Mótýán (Tabla)**

17 November 2016

There was a special occasion on 17 November in ASCC: the well-known Sitar player, Pt. Rajeev Janardan visited Hungary again. Last time due to





Director speaking on the occasion



Group photo



Pt. Rajeev Janardan performing

technical problems his performance was arranged in an acoustic way and it was so successful and familiar that again it was arranged without any amplifier, to give it an atmosphere similar to the previous concert.

Pt. Rajeev Janardan is an exponent of Hindustani Classical Music (North Indian style) and is recognized as one of the greatest Sitar & Surbahar players

of his generation. Pt. Rajeev Janardan is an unparalleled artist; his versatility with the instrument and its techniques combined with his deep understanding of the ragas stands him apart. His renditions represent the pure essence of a highly revered musical heritage. Pt. Janardan's music is an innovative blend of intricate "Gayaki Ang" (vocal style) & "Tantra Ang" (instrumental style). Listeners of all ages grasp his music differently but agree on its astounding ability to evoke emotions. His renditions which are mystical, soothing and calming have earned him undying admiration of an entire generation.

Pt. Rajeev Janardan has performed in keystone international music festivals and famous venues collaborating with artists around the globe and has been invited to many prestigious programs in India. He has earned enviable acclaim for his recitals and received numerous honors and appreciations within the country & abroad. He received his initial musical training under the tutelage of Late Pt. Bimalendu Mukherjee. Later in his years he worked on creating his own style of music which is peaceful and distinctive. He upholds aesthetic principles of traditional music and mesmerizes audience with his pristine pure, delicate yet fiery music. And the inevitable Hungarian connection: he is the Guru of Mr Szabolcs Tóth, the well-known Hungarian Sitar player, who is the only non-Indian private student of Pt. Rajeev Janardan.

Mr Tibor Mótyán (Tabla and Tabla Tarang player), who escorted the guru, was born in Szarvas, Hungary. He has been playing music since the age of 7. He learned to play the violin, piano, bass guitar, however his name is known mostly as a Tabla player. He pursued his studies in India, where he became the disciple of Pt. Vinode Pathak. Later he learned music from such famous Tabla player like Pt. Rajesh K. Gangani. Currently he is working with the Gayan Uttejakk Orchestra of Mr László Hortobágyi, and with numerous contemporary jazz and musical

formations. He is the only non-Indian Tabla Tarang player. He performs several times in Hungary and in Europe with his fusion ensembles Sitaram and Layanda, and he is a regular fellow musician of Mr Szabolcs Tóth during classical concerts. Besides he has given several solo Tabla performances. Also his Tabla-based fusion ensemble, Tala Sutra can be heard from time to time on stage.

The concert was a real success and the house was full of music lovers appreciating the occasion with big applause.

**Book Launch organized by Móra Publisher House**  
**18 November 2016**



Mora book launch

On 18 November 2016 an interesting programme was hosted by ASCC. Three books of Indian tales have been translated into Hungarian and launched in the Centre. Ms Andrea Tüske-Hegedűs, Ms Ilona Schaferné Földvári and Ms Éva Vajda talked about Indian history of tales, Indian culture and showcased the background of the books. Showcase of the pictures included in the books was also organized. The programme concluded with a Reception with Indian snacks.

## Ms Katalin Burns and the Duo Darbar

29 November 2016

November was for music in ASCC; the third occasion this month, on 29 November there was a special vocal performance organized in the Cultural Centre. Ms Katalin Burns performed the first time here, escorted by the well-known Duo Darbar formation.

Katalin Burns is a Hungarian singer with a strong interest in the music of the Subcontinent. In the past she had been in concert with Hindustani vocalists, Sufi singers and musicians, and she has performed with Panni Somi and the Sivasakti Kalánanda Dance Theatre. A few months ago one of her videos was aired on MTV India. She considers herself an admirer and a student of Indian semi classical music. Katalin studied some of the languages and constantly keep in touch with some Bengali musician friends for consultation.

Katalin offered a one-hour music



Katalin Burns and the Duo Darbar performing



Group photo

programme which she shared with the Duo Darbar, accompanying her songs. The excellent musicians have already played music at the Embassy on a few occasions. The concert included songs in Hindi and some melodious tappa. They completed the programme with some instrumental pieces. The audience enjoyed the music a lot and clapped back the artists on stage. ■



We are glad to inform you that Ms Gabriella Tóth has been selected by the *Committee of 8th Cuttack Mahotsav: International Dance & Music Festival – 2017* to be felicitated with International Nritya Ratna Award for her years long devotion and dedication towards Indian Classical Dance - Kuchipudi.

Her solo performance will be on 6th January, 2017 at Kala Vikash Kendra Auditorium, Cuttack, Orissa, India.

# DIWALI

## The Festival of Lights in Budapest

Text: Adam Lazar Photo: Szilvia Olah

They decorate their cars and buses, light up their houses, offices and shops. During the Festival of Diwali hundreds of millions of lights, candles, and lamps are burning, flickering in the evening breeze.

Diwali is one of India's biggest holidays. It is the festival of lights and every Indian celebrates it. In 2016 it was celebrated on 30 October. But in many parts of the sub-continent Diwali is revelled for five consecutive days. Hindus regard it as a celebration of life and use the occasion to strengthen



Diwali means rows of lighted lamps



relationships. They worship Lord Ganesh for good welfare and prosperity and Goddess Lakshmi for wealth and wisdom. In some parts of India, it marks the beginning of the New Year. It is celebrated not only in India but also abroad. Indians and India loving Hungarians also rejoiced for many days at many different places to have Indo- Hungarian Diwalis. Such a place was the Fonó Music House in Budapest. The Diwali at this Cultural Centre had a real festival atmosphere. The world famous Indian Sitar artist Debasish Gangopadhyay and the Hungarian tabla Master Péter Szalay were giving a delightful concert. For the lovers of Indian music and films about India, Debasish Gangopadhyay's name is well known. He was the composer of Hungarian film director Tamás Tóth's film entitled: Guru. Debasish Gangopadhyay was also the star artist of the International Yoga Festival in Budapest in 2015. The Diwali at the Fonó became even more exciting when Dóra Bittner Meenakshi joined the musicians and performed Indian classical dances.



Indian sitar artist Debasish Gangopadhyay

With their presentation the lights were really shining in Budapest. Listening to their music and seeing Ms Meenakshi's movements one remembered Mark Twain: "India is the



His instrument the sitar that can laugh and cry

cradle of the human race, the birthplace of human speech, the mother of history, the grandmother of legend and the great grandmother of tradition". ■

## Kathasaritsagara (Mesefolyamok óceánja) in MU Theatre

The debut of the performance Mesefolyamok óceánja (Tale-streams of the ocean) was on 1 October, 2016 in MU Theatre. The play is based on the world-renowned selection of the Sanskrit story-telling literature translated into Hungarian by József Vekerdi and Prof. Csaba Tóttóssy among others.

The theatre piece, based on the famous Sanskrit script and the story of the Corpse Daemon is a fusion of physical theater and narrative fable performed by young talents. The idea behind the composition is to make the ancient script 'visible' and go around the subject: what does India mean to





us nowadays in Hungary?

*"How should we approach these ancient Sanskrit stories as young artists, and theatre makers? Where to begin? A tale is a remembrance. A tale is forever. We jump into the Ocean of the Streams, so it rushes on. We are story tellers. We use our arms and feet. Also words, images, memories of a distant past. And rhythm, lights, bodies."*

Humour of the show is an important feature of the piece; not only the text conveys it, but the performance of the actors add their

own sense of humour, which come in due time and place to add the atmosphere to the play. The decoration is quite simple and symbolic, to place the piece in a neutral space in world; the imagination has to fill up the rest and the viewer has to put the tales into context and draw the conclusion from the lessons of the stories.

The performance was very well appreciated by the audience. Further shows are arranged in the theatre; ASCC is also planning to bring a

simpler version of the piece to the Cultural Centre under the aegis of the occasional programmes in near future.

**Actors:** Péter Árvai // Dániel Zoltán György // Dezső Máté Georgita // Mária Kőszegi // Ágnes Tóvaj // Borbála Orbán

**Assistant:** Virág Bocskai

**Music:** Dezső Máté Georgita

**Set and costume designer:** Anna Molnár // Tamás Tárnoki

**Expert advisor:** György Karsai

**Dramaturge:** Panna Bodor

**Director:** Krisztina Varga

## TRAVEL

ABHISHEK KUMAR SHARMA

## AROUND THE WORLD ON BI-CYCLE

Abhishek Kumar Sharma (28) is a resident of the town of Fatehgarh which is located in Uttar Pradesh, India.

He is on 80+ countries tour and will achieve this goal with completing his journey in the year September, 2020. He will cover almost 90,000 kilometers and will reach to nearly 10 000 000 people. His travel is supported by donations from people and companies.

Through his bicycle tour around the world he is tempting to spread awareness about 'Climate Change & World Peace' through lectures and he is also giving seminars about 'Importance of Bicycling' to live happier and healthier life.

His world tour started on 10 November, 2014 from





Fatehgarh, Uttar Pradesh, India. The Campaign is for friendship between Indians and other global citizens for better relationship and also to educate people from different parts of the society by raising awareness among students of schools, colleges,

universities and also encourage these institutions to start a chapter on Climate Change & World Peace awareness program, promote the yoga and meditation importance to live happier and healthier life. His aim is also to bring awareness among the

youth and encourage Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in the respective countries of the world.

He visited Hungary and Embassy of India in the end of October. ■

## Target: Continents & Countries

**ASIA (18 countries):** India - Nepal - Tibet - China - Bhutan – Bangladesh – Myanmar - Thailand - Indonesia – Singapore – Malaysia - Laos - Cambodia – Vietnam - Maldives – Mauritius - Sri Lanka - Japan

**EUROPE (41 countries):** Bulgaria – Macedonia – Greece – Italy – Croatia – Slovenia – Austria – Hungary – Serbia – Bosnia – Montenegro – Albania – Kosovo - Romania – Moldavia – Ukraine – Belarus – Poland – Slovakia – Czech Republic – Germany – Lithuania – Latvia – Estonia – Finland – Sweden – Norway – Denmark – Netherlands – United Kingdom – Ireland – Belgium – Luxembourg – Faroe Islands – Iceland – Liechtenstein – Switzerland – France – Spain – Portugal – Cyprus.

**NORTH AMERICA (9 countries):** Canada - The United State of America - Mexico - Guatemala - El Salvador - Honduras - Nicaragua - Costa Rica - Panama

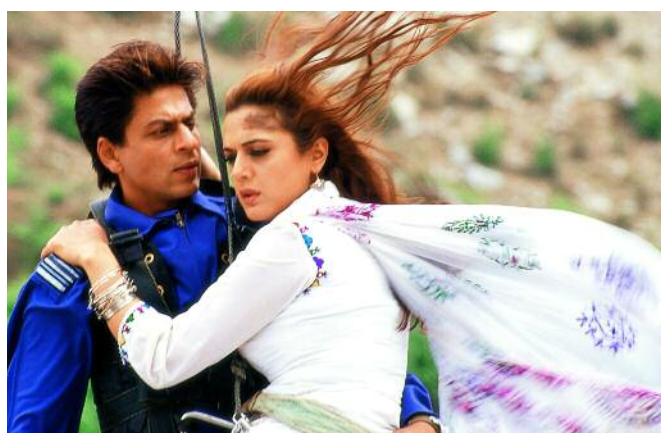
**SOUTH AMERICA (9 countries):** Colombia - Venezuela - Guyana - Surinam - French Guiana - Brazil - Paraguay - Argentina - Chile.

**AUSTRALIA (3 countries):** Australia - New Zealand - Papua New Guinea.

## HUNGARIAN SECTION - FILM

# India Filmhét 2016: Bollywood esszenciája—Veer-Zaara

Molnár Kata Orsolya 2016. október 14



Idén egy hétre ismét a hindi nyelvű filmeké lett a főszerep a Puskin moziban: szerelem, humor, akció egyaránt helyet kapott a kínálatban,

mely nem lehetett volna teljes a románcok királyának nevezett Yash Chopra egyik legismertebb alkotása, a Veer-Zaara nélkül. Tökéletes „belépő”

film ez Bollywoodba: egy igazi klasszikus, hatalmas sztárokkal, fülbemászó zenével és szépséges pandzsábi tájakkal.

Bollywood megosztja a hazai nézőt. Sokan vagyunk, akik első látásra beleszerettek ebbe a rendkívül látványos, színes és romantikus stílusba, egyeseknek azonban túlságosan harsányak és érzelműek a világ egyik legjelentősebb filmgyártó központjának – mely közel sem azonos az indiai filmgyártással, annak mindösszesen 43%-át adja – művei. A helyi filmek nagy mértékben különböznek az európai vagy amerikai alkotásoktól, jellemző rájuk a műfajkeveredés, a sok-sok zene és a melodramatikus történetvezetés. Bár Hollywood hatására a filmek egyre rövidebbek és egyre tisztább műfajúak, még napjainkban is erősen érződik a maszála hatás. A maszála film elnevezés a fűszerkeverékre utal, ebben a jellegzetesen indiai filmtípusban is mindenből van egy kicsi: a három-négy órás, szünettel megszakított filmekben jut idő szerelemre, családi gondokra, akcióra, látványos táncos betétekre és humorra egyaránt – mindenre, amit csak a filmnéző kíván. Nem véletlen, hogy ezeket a filmeket a család együtt nézi, hiszen mindenki talál bennük a saját kedvére valót.

A 2004-es Veer-Zara sem tisztán romantikus film, a sok-sok dallal tarkított melodráma mellett egy izgalmas tárgyalótermi drámát is kap a néző – 192 percben simán belefér. A történetet a pakisztáni-indiai konfliktust árnyalja: Zaara Haayat Khan (Preity Zinta) jómódú, befolyásos családból származó pakisztáni lány, aki

épp esküvőjére készül. A nagy nap előtt egy kis idővel meghal a dadája, aki halálos ágyán azt kéri a lánytól, vigye haza hamvait Indiába. Családja intésére fittyet hányva, Zaara egyedül vág neki az útnak, ahol összeismerkedik Veer Pratap Singh-gel (Shah Rukh Khan), aki segít neki célja megvalósításában, megmutatja neki Pandzsábot, és bemutatja családjának is. Természetesen a fiatalok egymásba szeretnek – de a határ két oldalán élve kötelességeik fogságában nem lehetnek egymáséi. Vagy talán mégis?

Ez még csak a nyitánya egy több évtizedet felölelő nagyszabású történetnek, mely nem véletlenül vált Yash Chopra rendező egyik legnépszerűbb filmjévé – nemcsak Indiában, de világszerte óriási sikert aratott, és számos díjat is begyűjtött. A négy éve elhunyt Chopra a bollywoodi film egyik legnagyobb mogulja volt, aki ezúttal saját fia, Aditya Chopra történetéből rendezett. Yash Chopra 1993-ban dolgozott együtt először a Veer-Zaara férfi főszereplőjével, az azóta kultikus sztárrá nőtt Shah Rukh Khannal – a találkozás mindkettejük karrierjét meghatározta: a direktor-producer ezt követően még háromszor rendezett, valahányszor Khannal a főszerepben.

Shah Rukh Khan a bollywoodi film egyik legjelentősebb személyisége, nem véletlenül hivatkoznak rá Bollywood királyaként: mind színészként, mind

magánemberként hihetetlenül szimpatikus, akit egyszerűen nem lehet nem imádni. Több mint 80 filmben szerepelt ezidáig, és számos díjat begyűjtött. Kezdetben főleg rosszfiúkat játszott, de aztán rátaláltak a romantikus szerepekre – a nézők legnagyobb szerencséjére. Nemcsak jóképű, remek színész is, amit a Veer-Zaarában is bizonyít, ahol azonban nem egyedül remekel. Igazi sztárparádé ez a film, olyan nagyságúak brillíroznak benne, mint Hema Mailini vagy a Veer nagybátyjának szerepében feltűnő Amitabh Bachchan.

De a sikerhez nem elég néhány nagy név. Mi lehetett a titka mégis a Veer-Zaarának? Indiában az egyik legfontosabb érték a szerelem. A film egy olyan szerelmet mutat be, ami dacol az idővel, a vallással, dacol az országok ellenségeskedésével, ami önfeláldozó és őszinte. Ráadásul a történet hősei a határ két oldaláról érkeztek – így a film üzenete messze túlmutat saját magán. Veer és Zaara egymásra találása nem csupán két szerelmes szív találkozása, de a Pakisztán és India között mindmáig élő erős szálakat is szimbolizálja. Ráadásul mindezt úgy képes megmutatni, hogy – indiai mértékkel mérve – nem lesz túlságosan geil. Aki egy kicsit is fogékony arra a szín pompás és érzékeny világra, amit Bollywood képvisel, a Veer-Zaara remek választásnak ítélik. ■

## Indiai Filmhét 2016: Szurkoltál már sakkfigurának? – Vezér

**Kiss Tamás 2016. október 16.**

A Vezér fordultatos akció-krimiként elhibázott alkotás, a bollywoodi filmekre oly jellemző műfajkeverés és hangnemműltások miatt azonban nagyon is szimpatikus. A hindi mértékhez képest bátornak tűnő erőszakos jelenetei miatt elfeledni biztos, hogy nem fogom.

A sakk ésjáték, 64 mezeje a logika

már-már végtelen variánsú terepe. Játsszani sosem szerettem – maximalista személyiségem hadban állt a lépések határtalanságával. Talán nem is véletlen, hogy a sakk motívuma rendre a zsenilétellel összefüggésben tálalódik, akár a játék- (Gyalogáldozat), akár a dokumentumfilmekben (Magnus). Más szemszögből nézve: a nagymesterek

profi bűvészek és szélhámosok. A csapdaállítás és a megtévesztés tökélesítői, a helyes út illúziójának ravasz megteremtői.

Az Indiai Filmhéten bemutatott Vezér döbbsentett rá arra, hogy egy sakkjátszmára építő zsánerfilm párhuzamos ívet jár be megannyi





szélhámos- vagy bűvészfilmmel. Kezdetől mindent egyetlen végső fordulatra építenek fel, s ha a feldolgozandó jeleket az alkotók kitüremkedve rejtik el, tátott száj helyett egy csalódott tekintet a jutalmuk. Bejoy Nambiar filmje – a körülrajongott Szemfényvesztőkhöz hasonlóan – egy túlrágzott csavar miatt lesz szimpla, de azért szórakoztató moziélmény. Én pedig csendben felteszem a kérdést: mikor készül végre egy olyan önreflexív „átverés-film”, ahol az az átverés, hogy a film végén nincs átverés?

A Vezér alaphelyzete tehát nem árul zsákmacskát. Daanish (Farhan Akhtar) a terrorelhárítás tagjaként egy váratlan utcai tűzharcban elveszíti kislányát. S mivel a tragédia a férfi hibájából történik, felesége (Aditi Rao Hydari) is eltávolodik tőle. A gyásztól és lelkiismeret-furdalástól szenvedő főhős azonban összebarátkozik egy idős, kerekesszékre kényszerült sakkmeisterrel (Amitabh Bachchan), aki

történetesen szintén lánya halálának feldolgozásával birkózik. Pláne, hogy gyanús körülmények egy befolyásos miniszter bűnrészességére utalnak.

Bejoy Nambiar szemei előtt a megtévesztés rendezői célja lebeghetett, és a magamfajta, indiai filmeket elvéve néző, nyugati kíváncsiskodó érezheti is a hurkot a nyaka körül: a menetrendszerűen érkező fordulatok helyett egy érzelmi hullámvasút ejt csapdába. A Vezér mind műfajkeverés, mind hangnemyáltás tekintetében elképesztő ívet jár be. A gyászzukkal birkózó szerelmesek melodramai szálát balladaszerű dalok sodorják a giccs irányába, szenvedésüket azonban meglepően erőszakos jelenetek törlik meg. A gyermekveréssel fenyegető gonosz feltűrt ingujja még szimplán borzongató, a lábait elvesztő tanítómester megkéselése és kerekesszékeének birtokba vétele már egyenesen döbbenetes. A videoklipekbe

illő akciójelenetekbe pedig simán belefér, hogy a nyomozó a már magatehetetlenül heverő bűnözőbe is golyót erresszen.

De a Vezér más tekintetben is izgalmas ellentétekre épül. Alapvetően a barátságot és a szeretetet élteti, de nem veti el a bosszú intézményét sem. Mer menet közben főhőst váltani: a sakkmeister már-már észrevétlenül veszi át az irányítást a manipulált nyomozótól. Felemelő érzés volt megsejteni, ahogy az idős, mozgássérült férfi aktivizálódik. Amitabh Bachchan emlékezetes alakítást is nyújt – nem véletlenül a bollywoodi filmgyártás nagy öregje. Hol mókás tanítómester, hol eltökélt igazságkereső, mindenre kész barát és körmönfont manipulátor egy személyben. A film legfinomabban kidolgozott, mesebeli háttérszála is hozzá köthető: elvégre az élet sakktábláján olykor a jelentéktelen gyalogfiguráknak is megadatik a kisemberi revans lehetősége. ■

लासलो नाज ( 1925-1978 )

## धुंए और बर्फ की बौछार में

HINDI SECTION

धुंए और बर्फ की बौछार में आगे बढ़ा मैं,  
सपना मुझे खींच रहा था।  
उस दूसरे को खोज रहा था मैं, तुम मेरे पास थे,  
तलवार की धार पर खिली एक पंखुरी,  
मेरा आहत फूल।

ये बीस बरस हिरा गये, लेकिन  
तुम मेरी सांत्वना हों।

गंदी बस्ती में जहां धुंआ उड़ रहा है,  
तुम्हारे मुँह से बजता 'ऑर्गन'  
पुलक भर देता है।  
सुंदरता और खुशी दे जाती हैं मुझे  
आश्चर्यमय जीवन।  
उन्हीं की खातिर मैं जल रहा हूँ  
गोकि निचोड़ना है मुझे शहद  
एक बंदी की तरह फूलों से,

ताकि मैं जीता रहूँ।  
मेरा जीवन अस्तव्यस्त है।  
मेरा भाग्य अस्तव्यस्त है।  
कर दो मुझे लैस आपाद - मस्तक आस्था से  
ताकि आखिरी दम तक  
निभाऊं मैं साथ।

Jartam en koromban, hoban

शांदोर चोरोश ( 1913-1989 )

## बलैरो ( तीन ताल में निबंध एक स्पेनी गीत/नृत्य )

हम सब चले जाते हैं, झूमते दरख्तों के नीचे से हम सब चले जाते हैं,  
भीगे आकाश-तले हम सब निकलते हैं बंजर के पर किसी  
निर्मल गंतव्य तक, हम सब जो यहां इकट्ठे हुए हैं,  
हममें से कुछ अब भी देखते मुड़-मुड़ कर,  
चाँदनी चिलकती है हमारे पद चिन्हां पर,

द्वार के करीब, एक लाल शामियाने में, पर अब हो रही देर, चलो चलें,  
बजता है गजर और हम चले चलते हैं  
हमेशा एक अलहदा तरीके से, तारों के पीछे,  
समतल मैदान की गोल दीवार पर,  
हम सब जो अस्ततः इकट्ठे हुए हैं, हम सब चले जाते हैं।

Bolero

Source: दस आधुनिक हंगरी कवि, अनुवाद: गिरधर राठी, सहयोग:  
मारगित कोवैश

अंततः हम सब चले जाते हैं, धूप भी पीछे रह जाती है,  
और चले चलते हम तारों के पीछे गगन की कुंडलियों में,  
मीनारों के ऊपर, कुछ अब भी मुड़ते हैं और चाहते हैं  
बाग में गिरे एक सेब को देखना, या शायद किसी हिंडोले को

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

**Drawing competition held in 11th district of  
Budapest organized for school children**

## India Day – Diwali Celebration

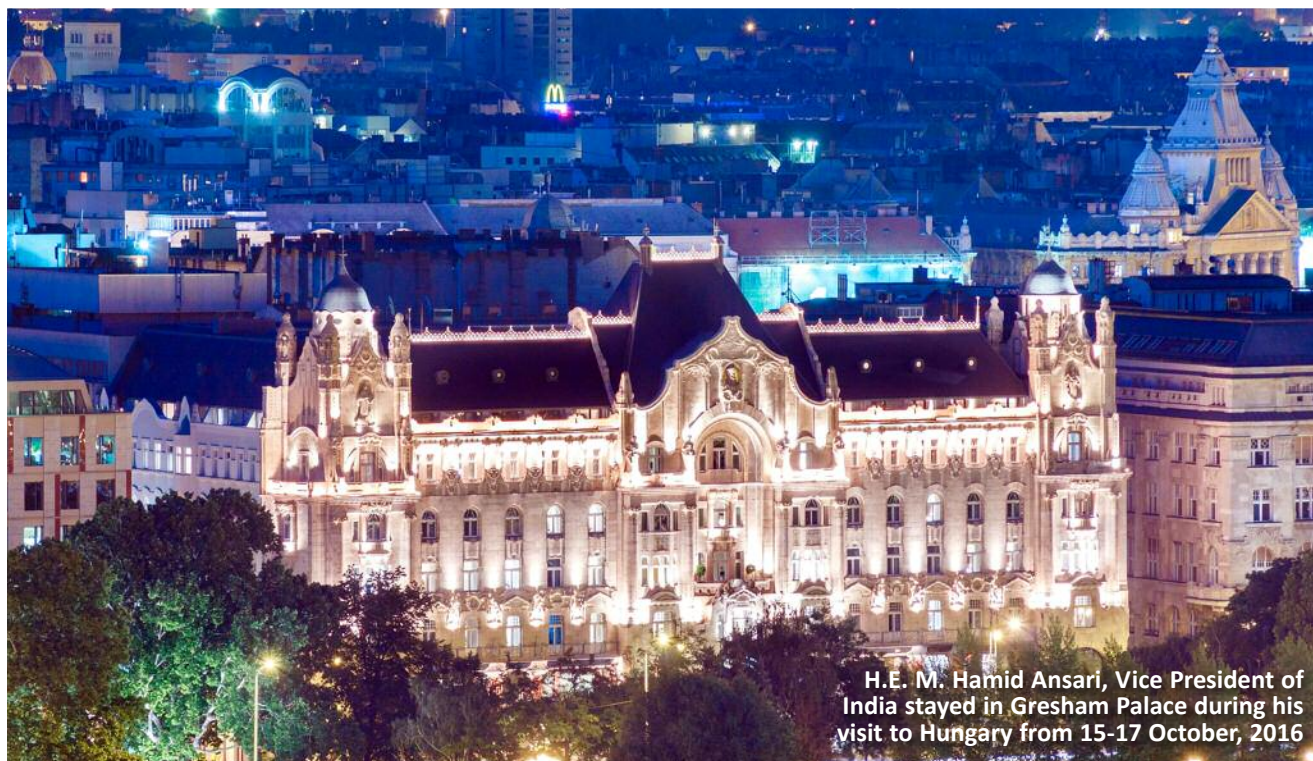
29 October 2016

Young pupils of elementary schools in the district as well as private painting classes received the story of Rama (as one of the main story behind the celebration of Diwali) and they enrolled in a painting competition with their artwork that is based on the story. The collected items were exhibited and the result of the competition brought to public at the event organized on 29 October in Albertfalva Community House. Small gift items were awarded for the winners of the competition.





# GRESHAM PALACE



**T**he Gresham Palace (Gresham-palota) is a building in Budapest, Hungary; it is an example of Art Nouveau architecture. Completed in 1906 as an office and apartment building, it is today the Four Seasons Hotel Budapest Gresham Palace, a luxury hotel managed by Four Seasons Hotels. It is located along the River Danube, adjacent to Széchenyi Square and the eastern terminus of the Széchenyi Chain Bridge.

The site was once occupied by Nákó House, a neo-classical palace built in 1827. In 1880, the London-based Gresham Life Assurance Company bought the property, at a time when it was illegal to invest money in stocks, but rental income was a wise investment. The company later decided to build its foreign headquarters on the site, and decided that they needed a grander setting for them. They commissioned local architects Zsigmond Quittner and József Vágó to design the new structure, and in 1904, they began construction of the Gresham Palace, which was completed in 1906 and opened in 1907. It was named after the 16th-century English financier Sir Thomas Gresham, the founder of the Royal Exchange in London.

Originally, the palace served as an office building as well as a residence for senior staff of the Gresham company. During the occupation after World War II, the Red Army used the building as a barracks. Eventually, it became decrepit and was used as an apartment building during the People's Republic of Hungary. In 1990, following the end of the communist regime, the national government presented the palace to the city of Budapest.

Oberoi Hotels entered into an agreement to manage a hotel in the building in 1991, but ensuing legal battles with residents of the building caused Oberoi to drop out in 1995. In 1998, Gresco Investments Ltd acquired the building and received approval from the Budapest Heritage Board to reconstruct it as a luxury hotel while retaining its original Art Nouveau architecture. Gresco raised \$85 million for renovations and in 1999 Four Seasons agreed to oversee the reconstruction and manage the new property.

In 2001, the building was bought by the Irish investment company Quinland Private. They extensively rebuilt the structure as a luxury hotel, restoring such original details as a large staircase, stained glass, mosaics, ironwork, and winter gardens. The hotel reopened in June 2004. In November 2011, the hotel was bought by the State General Reserve Fund of Oman, though Four Seasons continues to manage it. It currently has 179 guest rooms, including 17 suites.

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