

EMBASSY OF INDIA , BUDAPEST

भारत का राजदूतावास, बुडापेस्ट



MAY 2021

AMBASSADOR MEETS MAYOR OF BALATONFÜRED



Amb Kumar Tuhin visited Balatonfüred and met Mayor Istvan Boka on May 5. A floral Tribute was given by the two dignitaries at the statue of the celebrated Nobel laureate & legendary poet Rabindranath Tagore on the banks of Balaton lake (at Tagore Setany). Tagore had stayed in Balatonfüred for a few months in 1926 and had planted a linden tree here.

160th ANNIVERSARY OF TAGORE CELEBRATED



The Embassy of India in Hungary celebrated the 160th anniversary of Gurudev Tagore in partnership with the office of Mayor of Balatonfüred on May 5th at 11 am. The event began with address by Amb Tuhin and Mayor Boka. There was a talk by Dr. Imre Lazar, noted cultural diplomat on the role of Hungarians in Vishwabharti University, founded by Tagore in Kolkata, India. This was followed by a vibrant cultural programme with a melodious rendition of Tagore's

famous poetry 'Gitanjali' in Rabindra Sangeet (special form of vocal music conceptualised by Tagore).



This event also marked the opening of celebrations being held by the Embassy to commemorate 75 years of India's Independence which is being celebrated during 2021-22. On this occasion a webinar on the topic "Tagore in Hungary, Role of Hungarians in Vishwabharti in shaping the independence process" was also organised later in the day, in which several speakers presented their thoughts through presentations, films & speeches. Dr. Udaya Narayana Singh, Dean, Amity University, Dr. Imre Bangha, Professor, Oxford University, Akos Toth, film Maker & Colonel Sandor Pellek were some of the participants. Special poetry rendition of the translated version of tagore's 'Where The Mind is Without Fear' was done by Hungarian poets.

ELTE UNIVERSITY HONOURS AMBASSADOR



Amicus Facultatis citation was conferred upon

Ambassador Kumar Tuhin on May 10 for his contribution in strengthening academic relations and promoting India studies at Hungary's largest University Eötvös Loránd University. The citation was handed over by Dean Dr. Bartus Dávid of Deptt of Humanities of the University.

LAUNCH OF SANSKRIT LEARNING APP



In the presence of premier institutions devoted to studies of Indian Philosophy/language like ELTE University, Bhaktivedanta College, Dharma Gate Buddhist College, Vedic Foundation, ISKCON, sarasvati Foundation, etc. Ambassador Kumar Tuhin launched the Sanskrit Learning Gamified App called 'Little Guru' created & developed by Sportswizz Technology Pvt Ltd. CEO, Anuj Sharma gave a detailed presentation of the app. Noted Sanskritologist & Author David Frawley (Vamdev Shastri) spoke about

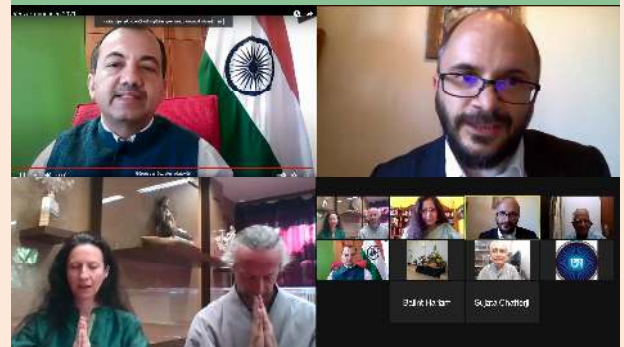


the significance and benefits of learning Sanskrit language to understand India in its entirety. Swamy Advyanada from Madrid also highlighted the importance of this App for beginners to understand the language for learning mantras and reading books. This app will give easy access to students of all ages to learn Sanskrit through games, quizzes and simple levels.

VESAK CELEBRATION ORGANIZED

'Vesak' celebration, the auspicious birthday of Gautam Buddha, was co-organised by Embassy of India & leading Buddhist Academic Institution A Tan Kapuja Buddhista Főiskola on May 26. The event was opened by Amb Kumar Tuhin & Vice-Rector, Dr. Gabor Karsai followed by lectures from experts from India, Dr. S. R Bhatt & Mr. Benoy. K Behl who shared their thoughts

on the theme, ' Relevance of Buddhism in times of crisis'. A documentary ' Sacred Buddhist Dance' on spiritual 'Chham' dance of Ladakh was also shown.



EID UL FITR CELEBRATIONS



The month also saw celebration of the auspicious festival

of Eid-ul-Fitr by members of Indian Muslim Community in Budapest which was appreciated & enjoyed by all. The event was organised by the Amrita Shergil Cultural Centre with contribution



from several members of the community and was live streamed from the Embassy premises with a vibrant cultural programme, including 'Dua' or prayers, songs, dances and a special 'Ghazal' programme based on well known Urdu poets of India by ghazal singer from India, Zeeshan Zamir Ahmed.

6th EPISODE OF INDIA IN HUNGARY DIALOGUE

An in-depth interview series on
India-Hungary Relations

Somi Panni
Indologist, coreographer
Bharatanatyam dancer

Dr. Anna Aklán,
Indologist

**Episode 6 of
INDIA HUNGARY
DIALOGUES**

18th May, 2021

Delineating spread of Indian Classical Dances in Hungary

<https://www.facebook.com/IndiaInHungary> | <https://twitter.com/IndiaInHungary>
<https://www.instagram.com/indianembassy> | www.youtube.com/user/EOIBUDAPEST1

The 6th episode of India in Hungary Dialogue series was livestreamed on all social media platforms where notable bharatnatyam dancer Panni Somi was

interviewed by indologist Anna Aklán on the growth of classical Indian dances in Hungary & the popularity of Indian Culture amongst the Hungarians. The full interview can be seen at <https://youtu.be/xfxS7iFy9U>

CULTURAL EVENTS ORGANIZED BY AMRITA SHERGIL CULTURAL CENTRE

This month, the Episode 2 of the cultural video magazine, 'Kutfo.. Culture Talks' featuring Shri Sivarama Swami of ISKCON, was aired. Shri Sivarama Swami had a dialogue with Melinda Irtl, Professor, Dharmagate Buddhist College, on Indian Philosophy & its spread in Hungary.

Amrita Sher-Gil Kulturális Központ

KUTFÓ...
Culture Talks

Watch at 12 pm May 14th, LIVE STREAMING
Conversation with Sivarama Swami, Spiritual Leader, ISKCON

Episode 2

Melinda Irtl talks to Sivarama Swami

<https://twitter.com/IndiaInHungary>
<https://www.facebook.com/ICCBudapestHungary/>
www.youtube.com/user/EOIBUDAPEST1

Two more interesting virtual events took place in the month. First, the 'World Culture Day' which was woven around a 'Virtual Heritage Walk' of Hungary & India.

Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre

World Culture Day
21 May, 2021
For Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development

11 AM - 12 PM ONLINE WEBINAR

Virtual Walk of Shared Heritage by Experts
www.eoibudapest.org/online/cultureday

- Mahatma Gandhi
 - Zebegey House
 - India House at Budapest Zoo
 - Philosopher's Garden
 - Chola Dynasty
 - Varanasi

On one hand through visual & virtual walks glimpses of India-Hungary connections were shown such as the Zebegey House (where Amrita Shergil had resided), a walk through the India House at Budapest Zoo, and through Philosopher's Garden (where statues of great men including Mahatma Gandhi are), and a presentation on Chola Dynasty by Seema Chari and on most ancient living city, Varanasi. A dance drama made in the traditional musical style of Varanasi based on notable

Hindi poet 'Nirala's' poem 'Ram Ki Shakti Puja' was also shown with subtitles made by theatre person Vyomesh Shukla. Also, colourful 'Hungarian Children's Day' in which 7 schools of Budapest participated virtually through contests & presentations. Students sent paintings on their favourite Indian animals, birds, flowers, places as well as some spectacular musical performances which were judged by six jury members.

INDIA EU LEADERS MEETING

The leaders of the European Union (EU) and its Member States and India, met in hybrid format on 8 May 2021 in Porto for a very historic meeting. The meeting was an unprecedented occasion when the Prime Minister of India was a special invitee at the EU Council Meeting. Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister of Portugal Antonio Costa Costa jointly wrote an Op-ed in the leading European media portal 'Politico' emphasizing the significant potential of the India-EU relationship to advance trade and investment ties, support effective multilateralism and a rules-based order.



India-EU Leaders' Meeting Key Outcomes

- Resumption of negotiations between India and the EU for Trade and Investment Agreements after 8 years;
- Start negotiations for an agreement on Geographical Indications;
- Dedicated dialogues on WTO issues, regulatory cooperation and market access issues;
- New Working Group on supply chain resilience;
- Launch of India-EU 'Connectivity Partnership' – an inclusive, viable and sustainable model to connectivity;
- Cooperation on High-Performance Computing;
- Financing contract with EIB for Euro 150 million for the Pune Metro Rail Project;
- EU joins Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

The EU was India's largest trading partner in goods 2019-20, with total trade close to USD 90 billion. The EU's strength in regulatory matter and standards is also of value to India. India is already closely cooperating on digital standards. It has also taken a lead in Sustainable Financing. For a more ambitious India, the EU is a natural partner.



#IndiaEU: Trade and Investment Relationship

- EU as a whole was India's **largest** trading partner while India was EU's **9th** largest trading partner in 2018
- EU is the **largest** source of Foreign Direct Investment into India
- Indian investments into the EU are estimated at Euro **50 billion**
- India is the **4th** largest service exporter to the EU and the **6th** largest destination for service exports from the EU

As of March 2020

The three broad clusters of discussions were 1. Trade, Technology and Connectivity, 2. COVID-19, Environment and Climate Change and finally, Foreign Policy, Security and Regional Issues. India and the EU have agreed to resume negotiations for balanced and comprehensive free trade and investment agreements. Negotiations on both the Trade and Investment Agreements will be pursued on parallel tracks with an intention to achieve early conclusion of both of them. Furthermore, on the economic front, both sides also agreed to have dedicated dialogues on WTO issues, regulatory cooperation, market access issues and supply chain resilience, demonstrating the desire to deepen and further diversify our economic engagement. There has also been an agreement to start negotiations on a separate agreement on geographical indications. India and the EU have also agreed on a comprehensive and ambitious Connectivity Partnership covering digital, energy, transport and people-to-people connectivity. More details can be seen at <https://mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/33853/joint+statement+on+indiaeu+leaders+meeting+may+08+2021>

CONSULAR SERVICES AT EMBASSY

Consular services, with limited appointments, have been restored and with prior appointment one can visit Embassy on Wednesday and Thursday. Appointments can be booked here: <https://www.eoibudapest.gov.in/page/appointment-for-visa-consular-passport/>. Applicants are requested to seek appointment for only the service available on that day. **For visas on Wednesday and for Passport and Consular services on Thursday.** In case you need any assistance/information you can contact the Embassy at: Phone Number: +36-1-3257742/43

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