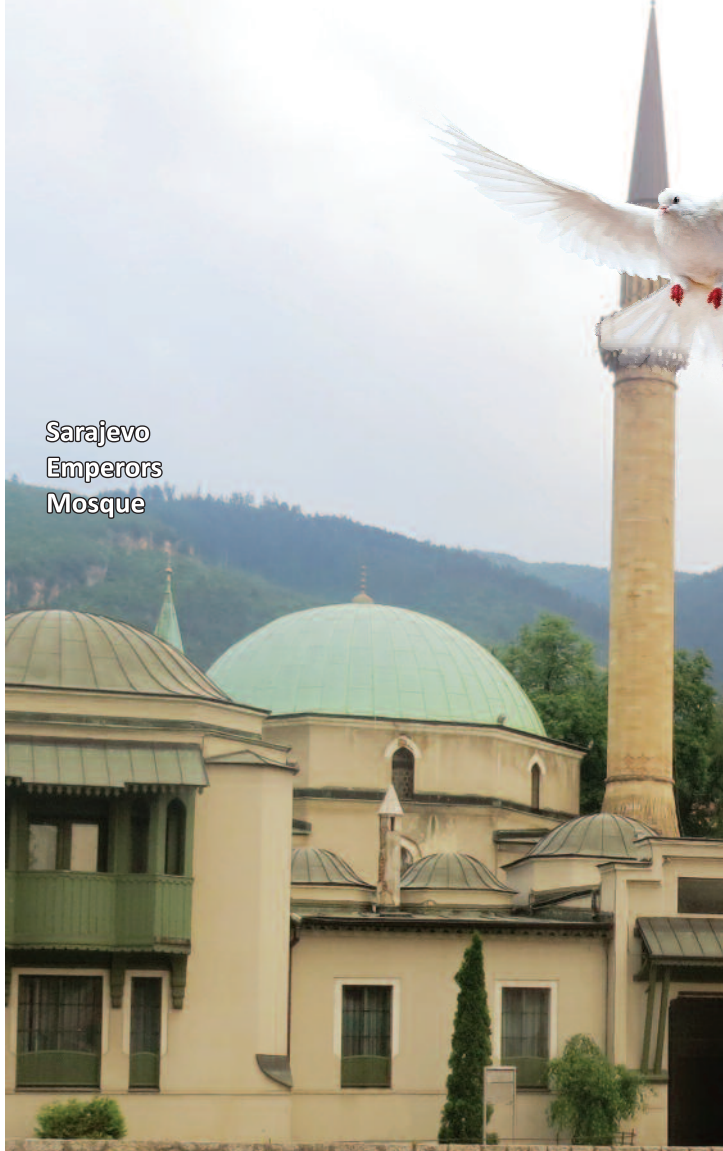


# AMRIT

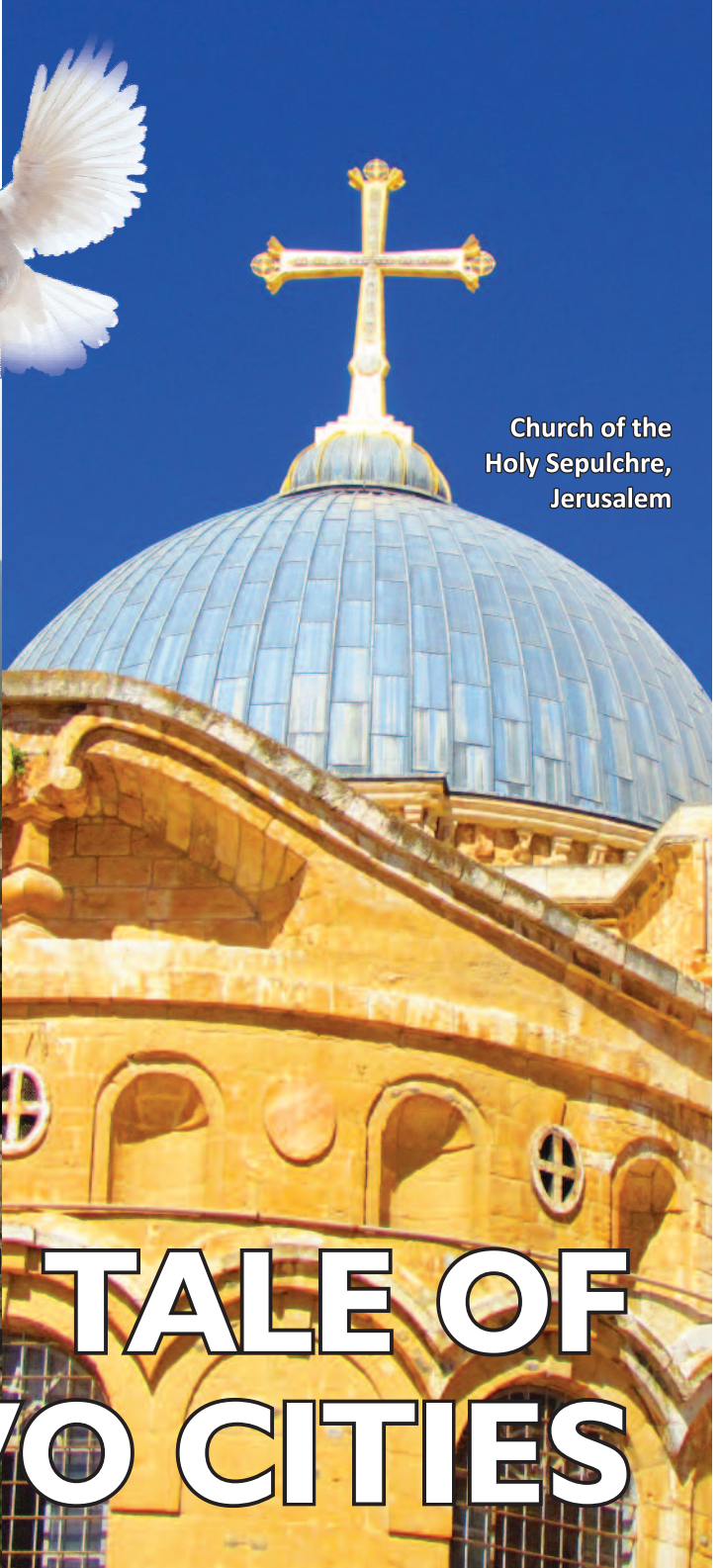
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INDEPENDENCE DAY 2014



Sarajevo  
Emperors  
Mosque



Church of the  
Holy Sepulchre,  
Jerusalem

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## THE TALE OF TWO CITIES



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## AMRIT

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India to Hungary

### Editor in Chief

Malay Mishra

### Editor

Umesh Kumar

### Support team

Eszter Berki  
Anita Adamecz  
Mariann Orosz  
András Havas

### Contributors

Malay Mishra  
Sayantan Chakravarty  
Umesh Kumar  
DCD Dass  
Dániel Balogh  
Dr. Shyam Singh Shashi  
Ádám Lázár  
Mariann Orosz  
Mária Négyesi  
István Örkény  
Sanjay Gupta  
Kiss Csaba

### Cover and Design and Layout

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INDIA EMPIRE Publications  
N 126, II Floor, Greater Kailash-I,  
New Delhi – 110 048, India.  
M: +91-9899117477  
Tel: +91-11-29231515

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# From the Ambassador's Desk



Dear Reader,

Something magical happened to me today. Visited the world famous church of the Holy Sepulchre in the morning amidst thousands of tourists, pilgrims, devotees, worshippers and fideles, the Church atop Golgatha hill where Jesus the Christ was crucified and entombed. And in the afternoon, as a walk in Paradise to trace His origin, to the Church of Nativity in Bethlehem, to the manger, where Mary gave birth to baby Jesus. He who was born to atone man (Adam) of the 'original sin' with Her immaculate conception.

Do not ask questions with the mind, our guide warned, get your answers with the heart. Indeed! Jerusalem overwhelms you with a plenitude of emotions weighing down on the spiritual. Thus when I walked on the Via Dolorosa, not once but twice, during the day to feel the pain, perhaps, which the Son of God had caused to bear upon Himself, by bearing the cross humiliated, flagelled, 'decorated' with a crown of thorns on His bleeding head, hammered to the crucifix with his hands outstretched, legs joined to the other, I explained to myself, what other pain and suffering was left then? And when it was all over, the immaculate shroud was wrapped on the bleeding body and brought down to be washed on the platform of stone, still lying in the church as a mute witness to time, and finally entombed.

My life was, as if, fulfilled. And today, the 28th of June, when I have got down to write in this heavily contemplative mood, the whole of Europe is commemorating a century of the beginning of the First World War. For me it is a signal affirmation of peace, that which we all yearn for, in our everyday life. As Mahatma Gandhi said in his momentous battle to incarnate peace for freedom, "peace and non-violence are for the brave, the weak can never face the opponent in an unequal fight if he is not convinced of standing up to his injustices".

I carried Gandhiji's gospel of peace to the battle weary terrain of Sarajevo, the context – the first Global Peace Event 2014 - Sarajevo having ignited the first Great War. Gavrilo Princip, the Bosnian Serb nationalist is today branded a terrorist—perhaps a historical oversight will judge him right—in pumping bullets to the bodies of Francis Ferdinand, the Archduke of the Austro-Hungarian empire and his wife Sophie as they

were sojourning in regal splendour. Soon thereafter, Europe was to erupt in flames, the heat of which may not have subsided even to this day.

As the embers of that raging battle still smoulder in the excessive damnations of man against man, Gandhi comes out more relevant now than ever before. For which doctrine could save mankind from the torpidities through which it is passing than that of Peace and Non-violence.

Peace was thus the theme of the global event with a capital 'P', as peaceniks from across 20 nations congregated to join heads and chart a course, an alternative pathway to secure a better future. Indeed, an ambitious affirmation of the will of a small minority to attempt a "changement du cours".

Here in Hungary, assessing eight months of Indo-Hungarian relations since the State visit of PM Viktor Orban to India, I am indeed perplexed with the not-so-impressive growth, where much more could have been achieved, particularly when both sides have left no efforts or opportunities amiss in reaffirming their goodwill, friendship and historical bonding, when the people's love and affection on both sides, despite a few irritants, have brooked no barrier.

Why then? A question which we, thus, let our readers answer. India is still, supposedly, on the radar of the great Eastern opening of Hungary. The dawn of a new hope and promise will break, I have no doubt. As the celebrated Hungarian poet Sandor Petofi in his ode to freedom exhorts:

*"On your feet now, Hungary calls you!  
Now is the moment, nothing stalls you,  
Shall we be slaves or men set free,  
That is the question, answer me!  
By all the Gods of Hungary  
We hereby swear  
That we the yoke of slavery,  
No more shall wear ....."*


—S. Petofi – 13 March 1848

On the 15th of August, India celebrates the 67th anniversary of her hard-earned freedom, her tryst with destiny. In the panoply of nations, and amidst the galaxy of leaders of the national movement, India stands tall in having ushered a new era of freedom, for herself as for three quarters of the world, crushed under imperial yoke.

The great poet of India, Rabindranath Tagore, just about six months to the day when his mortal frame would give way, writes in Arogya (the cure).

*"Silently comes the fierce night,  
batters down the sapped body's enfeebled door-bolt,  
enters within, commences to ravish  
life's glorious loveliness, till the mind,  
under darkness's attack, acknowledges it is beaten,  
When... suddenly upon the horizon,  
appears the day's banner drawn in golden rays.....  
In the morning's serene light, I see myself  
as one who has conquered suffering, on the tower,  
of the exhausted body's fortress"*

Freedom thus is no longer ephemeral, peace has conquered the world bringing with it the rays of a new sun. Read on.



Malay Mishra

## Meeting with Honb'le President of Curia in Budapest on 2 June 2014



Ambassador with President of Curia



Chief Justice Delegation with Dr Darak

Ambassador called on Dr Peter Darak, Hon'ble President of Curia and discussed matters of bilateral nature. Curia, formerly known as the Hungarian Supreme Court until 2012, is the highest judicial authority of the country. Curia, consisting of 83 judges, has three Departments namely criminal, civil and administrative-labour law. President and Ambassador exchanged views on both the Indian and Hungarian judiciary. Few days

later, on 17 Jun, President Darak received a Judicial delegation from India comprising Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arjan Kumar Sikri, Judge, Supreme Court of India, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Chief Justice, Punjab & Haryana High Court and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vibhu Bakhru, Judge, Delhi High Court. During the meeting, various issues including the invitation of Dr Darak to Delhi were discussed. ■

## Visit Eszterhazy College in Eger on 3 June 2014



With Rector of Eger College



In Tiszavasvari



Visit to Sunpharma

Ambassador visited Eger at the invitation of Eszterhazy College and took part in the International Conference titled 'International Strategies in Higher Education'. Ambassador met with the Rector, Dr Kalman Liptai and discussed issues of mutual interest. Ambassador also gave a talk on "The academic / student mobility possibilities to / from India". During the day Ambassador visited Tiszavasvari, close to Eger, where the plant of Sunpharma Ltd., an Indian Pharmaceutical company, was shown to him by the management. The Hungarian Alkaloida Chemical Company, founded in 1927 and known as one of the most modern pharma plants by the Hungarians, has been a subsidiary of Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. since 2005. It manufactures and distributes pharmaceutical ingredients, finished products, and synthetic intermediates. ■

## Visit of Judicial delegation on 18 June 2014



Ambassador with the Judges at his dinner



Outside the Curia

On the occasion of the visit of Judicial delegation from India, Ambassador hosted a dinner in honour of the delegation. ■

## Lecture at Silence Camp of Himalaya Yoga Centre in Tihany on 20 June 2014



Ambassador with Himalay Yoga Centre director, swamiji, interpreter in Tihany



Silence Camp in Tihany

At the invitation of Ms Anna Mezosi, Director of Himalaya Yoga Centre of Hungary, Ambassador visited the Silence Camp in Tihany near Balatonfured on 20 June.

After Pranayama and Japa, Ambassador gave a talk on Meditation at the yoga camp where 60 members took part. All showed a great interest towards the values of meditation. ■

## Opening Lecture of Vedic Life Lecture Series on 26 June 2014



Ambassador and interpreter Imola Hollo  
at the Vedanta lecture



**Vedanta Lecture:** Audience at the Vedanta Lecture

Ambassador gave a lecture on 'VEDANTA, the elixir of life' at the Opening Part of Vedic Life Lecture Series. His lecture was followed by Guest Speaker Mr Sanjay followed by light refreshments. The event was attended by nearly 100 guests from various circles such as the Yoga



Mr Sanjay's talk at the Vedic Life function

Centres, spiritual organisations, hospitals and Buddhist College based in Hungary. The next lectures are to be held on 25 Jul, 2 Sept, 1 Oct and 4 Nov. ■

## Meeting with H.E. Minister for National Development on 2 July 2014



With Minister for National Development

Ambassador called on H.E. Mr Miklos Sesztak, Minister for National Development on 2 July. During the meeting various topics including investment opportunities in Hungary and Hungary's investment opportunities in India in the field of infrastructure, power, telecommunication and renewable energy were discussed. Minister mentioned that Ambassador of India was the first Ambassador he is meeting since taking ministerial responsibility. ■

## Hungarian Investment and Trade Agency (HITA)

HITA was established by the Hungarian Government to promote international business activities of Hungarian small and medium-sized enterprises and to encourage foreign businesses to invest in Hungary. The Agency is a central organization subordinated directly to the Prime Minister.

Launched on 1 January 2011, the 150 employees of the Agency have been providing assistance to foreign investors as well as helping the exports of Hungarian SMEs.

These tasks are managed in line with the Széchenyi Plan and the Hungarian foreign trading strategy, with the goal of maintaining Hungary's traditional export destinations while gaining foothold on new dynamically growing markets.

In addition to its central office, HITA has opened six local offices in large towns across the country and in the framework of the domestic regional network, also has one representative in each of the counties of Hungary enabling trade and investment-related services throughout the land.

HITA operates in close collaboration with diplomats, thereby strengthening Hungary's foreign trade relations through 63 offices in 49 countries across the globe.

The investment and trade agency is also the head of

the Hungarian branch of the Enterprise Europe Network. This was set up by the European Commission's Directorate General for Enterprise and Industry with the aim of encouraging small and medium-sized enterprises' business development efforts in the European Union.

**Contact:**

**Address:** 1055. Budapest, Honvéd utca 20.

Tel: +36 1 872-6520

Fax: +36 1 872-6699

E-mail: [info@hita.hu](mailto:info@hita.hu)

Web: [hita.hu](http://hita.hu)

**Mr. János Berényi**

President

Email: [Janos.berenyi@hita.hu](mailto:Janos.berenyi@hita.hu)

**Mr. Péter Bilek**

Vice-President Government Relation

Department of International Relations

Email: [Peter.bilek@hita.hu](mailto:Peter.bilek@hita.hu)

**Mr. Péter Spányik**

Head of International Directorate

Email: [peter.spanyik@hita.hu](mailto:peter.spanyik@hita.hu)

## Hungarian National Trading House

The Hungarian National Trading House Cls. (HNTH) was established in 2013 by the Hungarian Government and the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. As part of the new foreign trade strategy „Opening to the East”, the Hungarian National Trading House seeks new markets and new opportunities for Hungarian companies. It aims to satisfy the needs of the Hungarian Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) regarding export potential necessary for their expansion and thereby ensuring the economic growth of Hungary. The activities are built up by two main pillars: filtering the markets and searching for Hungarian companies whose products and services could be competitive on foreign markets while measuring market requirements through Local Trading Houses that operate as PPPs. The goal is to insure the best premium products and services for foreign clients.

The Hungarian National Trading House offers its partners complex services and support in market exploration, client identification and advertisement – from the very initial offers to the contracting stages – as well as helping its clients in channelling international development projects. To achieve

full flexibility for the Hungarian and foreign trade partners, HNTH offers a full range of contracting options from simple legal and financial consultation, through deal negotiation to final trade transactions.

**Contact:**

Hungarian National Trading House

Address: 1095 Budapest Ipar u. 5

Tel: +36 1 810-1600 Email: [info@tradehouse.hu](mailto:info@tradehouse.hu)

Web: [tradehouse.hu](http://tradehouse.hu)

**Mr György Kerekes**

CEO

Email: [kerekes.gyorgy@tradehouse.hu](mailto:kerekes.gyorgy@tradehouse.hu)

**Mr Gábor Kun**

Deputy CEO

Email: [kun.gabor@tradehouse.hu](mailto:kun.gabor@tradehouse.hu)

**Tímea Varga**

Director of International Relations, Asia

Email: [varga.timea@tradehouse.hu](mailto:varga.timea@tradehouse.hu)



## India has become boon for investors: Harvard

Harvard Business School Dean Nitin Nohria described the ongoing phase in India as an “extraordinary time” and said the country of his origin has once again become promising for international investors after the Narendra Modi government took over.

“This is an amazing business opportunity for India in terms of international sentiments. A decade ago India was very exciting but five years ago people that I came across started saying that they would wait and see before they decide to invest in India,” said Nohria, who was invited by Power Minister Piyush Goyal to address government officials. “Today...is an extraordinary time for India, now people are not as excited about China as they were 5-years-ago,” he said, adding India has suddenly become promising once more.

Nohria, the first Dean of Indian origin of the prestigious US business school, said the clear mandate of the new government was good for the business environment. Terming the current phase as one that exudes guarded optimism, Nohria said: “FIIs will wait for 6 months to see if the initial excitement actually translates into concrete action and then FDI will begin

to come in as well.”

Nearly a month after he invited author Chetan Bhagat, Power Minister Piyush Goyal today hosted Nohria with the idea of honing leadership skills of his ministry officials.

“We invited him to give us a sense of what leadership is all about. The management talk with the top officials of the three (Power, Coal and Renewable Energy) ministries... we discussed different aspects of leadership, how it is different in government and private sector,” Goyal told reporters here. Nohria became the tenth dean of Harvard Business School on 1 July 2010.

He previously served as co-chair of the Leadership Initiative, Senior Associate Dean of Faculty Development, and Head of the Organisational Behaviour unit.

Last month, Goyal invited Bhagat to lecture employees under his ministries with the objective of improving productivity and bringing out new ideas to streamline government processes. ■

—*Courtesy: Free Press Journal*

## India has potential to be world's largest economy

India, an emerging global economic power, has the potential to become the largest economy in the world, Facebook Chief Operating Officer (COO) Sheryl Sandberg said today.

Sandberg, who served as Chief of Staff for the US Treasury Department under President Bill Clinton, said the over USD 2 trillion Indian economy has immense potential to create jobs and drive growth, especially with its huge base of small and medium businesses (SMBs).

"India has the potential to become the largest economy in the world. And if you look at economic growth, particularly recently, jobs is a very hard situation all over the world. From the US to developing markets, everyone is very concerned about jobs."

"And majority of the growth, as I understand it, is certainly here, not in the US. In most countries, I have visited, SMBs are the way to growth," she told PTI.

Explaining further, Sandberg, whose previous stint was as Vice President of Global Online Sales and Operations at Google, said "the answer to growth is entrepreneurship".

"Individuals are creating businesses and employing other people, and in India, the SMB growth is strong. And Internet provides more growth stories to SMBs. People are connecting to people and getting more customers and that's what leads to economic growth," she added.

Micro, small and medium businesses contribute nearly eight per cent of India's GDP, 45 per cent of the manufacturing output and 40 per cent of exports.

The sector is estimated to have given employment to about 59.5 million people in over 26.1 million such enterprises throughout the country.

India, which is considered as one of the fastest growing economies in the world, saw its growth rate plummeting to less than five per cent in the last two years. However, the industry is hopeful of a rebound with a new stable government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is widely perceived as a pro-business leader.

Modi had also said recently that there was a need to administer "bitter medicine" to revive the ailing economy. The International Monetary Fund has projected a growth

rate of 6.4 per cent next year for India, in line with the gradual strengthening of global markets.

Reminiscing her association with India, the former management consultant with McKinsey & Company and an economist with the World Bank said she started her career in India in 1981 working with the World Bank on leprosy.

“And now when I look at leprosy, it’s no longer a threat here. The way I see it, India has grown so much in the past two decades,” she added.

Sandberg said Facebook wants to be a part of the growth story in India, which is on the cusp of leapfrogging ahead in economic as well as social development. India has the

world's third largest Internet userbase with over 200 million users, most of whom are logging onto the web using their mobile phones.

“India is Facebook’s second largest market, fastest growing market, fastest growing Internet connectivity in APAC. It is of high priority for us,” Sandberg said. According to research firm eMarketer, India, which has the highest number of Facebook users outside the US, will account for the fastest growth in people logging on to the social networking platform this year. Over 100 million Indians are on the California-headquartered firm’s platform, with around 84 million users accessing the social networking site from their mobile devices. ■

—*Courtesy: Ms Sheryl Sandberg, Chief Operating Officer, Facebook*

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## **Review of INDO-HUNGARIAN Bilateral Economic and Business cooperation in light of PM Orban’s Visit to India & 3rd Session of Indo Hungarian JEC held in October 2013**

The bilateral Trade between India and Hungary is concentrated in few products such as pharmaceutical drugs and fine chemicals, Machinery and equipment, Electronic goods, Transport Equipment and Electronic Machinery. The quantum of bilateral trade in 2013 is to the tune of USD 582.5 million. The potential sectors of interest for both sides are detailed below with progress/status thereto:

### **Science and Technology**

The two sides agreed to establish an Indo-Hungarian Strategic Research Fund, with equal contribution of 2 million Euros annually for 2014-17. Cooperation in S&T is a focus area in India-Hungary relations. Hungary recognises India as a country with a well-developed R&D and ‘knowledge’ infrastructure. Hungary in turn, has established an excellent network of R&D institutions under the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (HAS). Suggested areas include green chemistry, bio-medicine, electronic, optics and space technology (opto-electronics).

As of December 2013, 6 approved projects under the Indo-Hungarian Strategic Research Fund were being pursued. Since then the Indian side has forwarded 40 proposals to the Hungarian side whereas the latter has forwarded a list of 45 projects. The projects are being assessed and the assessment is likely to be completed in July 2014. The two sides are in regular contact in this regard.

### **Agriculture**

An Agreement on Agriculture, Plant Quarantine,

Protection and Animal Husbandry covering agricultural research and technology, agriculture production, horticulture and post harvest management, including cold chain, agro-processing and agricultural marketing, was signed during the visit of Prime Minister of Hungary to India in 2008. The Joint Working Group established under the Agreement had met in New Delhi in February 2012, where both sides expressed their satisfaction on the Work Plan 2012-13 on Agricultural Cooperation.

During the State visit of Prime Minister Orban to India in October 2013, agri and agro-processing were deemed to be important areas of cooperation. The 3rd meeting of the JWG in Budapest is being planned & preparation of a work-plan for 2014-15 is underway.

### **Traditional Medicine**

With its long tradition of spa therapies and interest in Indian culture, there is considerable potential for promotion of Ayurveda in Hungary. An International Workshop on “Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive (THMPD) and its impact on Ayurveda in Europe” was organised in March 2010 in Budapest. MoU on Cooperation in Health Sector, signed during the visit of the former Hungarian PM to India in 2008, provides the necessary legal and political framework for cooperation in this sector, including Ayurveda.

A MoU on bilateral cooperation in traditional medicine was signed in Delhi during PM Orban’s visit. Pursuant to that

an expert on Ayurveda will be placed in Debrecen University to undertake ayurvedic studies and research. An International Ayurveda Conference is being planned for 22-23rd September 2014. The possible visit of a team led by PHARMEXIL is also being explored, to coincide with the conference. Later a workshop on ayurveda will be planned with the active participation of Indian Ayurvedic Medicine Manufacturing companies in Hungary in the last quarter of 2014 or first quarter of 2015. Under the activities planned under the recently set up Ayush Information Centre, the Embassy organised a Camp on AYUSH successfully on 31 May 2014.

### Water management

Hungary has proven technologies in the field of Water-Management. Cooperation in following areas have been sought: water supply / water public utility services/ network development / sewage sludge utilisation and composting / enzyme-catalytic treatment of soil and ground water / wastewater disposal and treatment, hazardous waste management / air treatment, deodorization and ventilation of industrial facilities and water treatment plants / river basin management. Indian and Hungarian sides have formed expert groups on Water Resources and an MoU on the subject is proposed to be signed soon. The first meeting of these expert groups is likely to be held later this year.

### Infrastructure and Power Infrastructure

It is an agreed fact that there is a lot of scope to use Hungarian expertise in the field of Infrastructure development whereas POWERGRID has developed expertise in the field of Power transmission & distribution. Both sides have agreed to exchange information on Energy Projects. NHAI does its procurement through ICB and 100% FDI is allowed, hence there is a considerable scope for Hungarian companies.

### Oil and Gas

We need to enhance mutually beneficial cooperation between MOL and ONGC. It was agreed that both companies may consider entering into a fresh MoU. ONGC has shown interest in Hungarian petroleum experts for exploration of hydrocarbons in challenging terrain under this MoU. Indian Oil companies have also shown interest to participate in future licensing rounds for oil and natural gas blocks in Hungary and also to pursue other opportunities on G2G basis jointly with MOL.

### High Tech Industrial Cooperation

The Hungarian side offered its cooperation in the joint development and use or even technology transfer of a UAV for civil applications. The 100% Hungarian, privately owned engineering companies have a fully functional system, tested under extreme weather and terrain conditions. The potential applications and tasks are vast and it is clearly seen that in

future it is going to a gainful and important asset to various agencies in India.

### Cooperation in the Automotive Industry

Both the countries have a large automotive sectors and a sizeable automotive components manufacturing base. Hungarian side expressed its willingness to actively participate in bus development projects in India. The MoU signed between ACMA and Majosz will strengthen the cooperation. An ACMA delegation will be invited to address at Auto Conference in Hungary in November 2014.

### Tourism

Both countries have agreed to encourage and facilitate the visit of tourists to each other's country. Tour operators, travel agents and airlines are being encouraged to participate in each other's tourism fairs and hold dialogue at regular intervals. India Tourist Office, Frankfurt participated in Travel Show held in Budapest in February 2014, and the Ministry of Tourism (through Indiatourism Frankfurt) along with Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) held a Roadshow in Budapest on 18 June, 2014. The Road show aimed at providing a platform for the Indian Destination Management Companies (DMCs) and the Hungarian tour operators to interact with each other, explore new business opportunities and create more awareness among the Hungarian travel industry about tourism potential in India.

### Micro Small and Medium Enterprises

Hungary is looking at India as one of its important partners in several areas including SMEs. Given the field and size of most Hungarian companies this area has tremendous potential which remains unutilised. To take the first step forward a senior official-level delegation proposes to visit Hungary in November this year

*There has been satisfactory progress in identified fields on cooperation between two countries, however we have to work relentlessly towards realisation of potential and expect full cooperation and support from all quarters. The following areas are highlighted below to present a complete picture of increased bilateral cooperation:*

**Defence cooperation:** The 6th India - Hungary Joint Defence Committee Meeting was held in New Delhi during the visit of Prime Minister Viktor Orban to India on 17 October 2013. Pursuant to the JDC meeting, a senior level delegation, visited Hungary from 28 - 30 April, 2014 at the invitation of the Hungarian Ministry of Defence.

The Indian delegation visited laboratory testing facilities at the University of Szeged, National Research Institute of Radio-biology and Radio-hygiene, 93rd Petofi Sandor Chemical Protection Battalion of MOD and the Hungarian

Academy of Sciences, and interacted with Hungarian experts. The main purpose of the visit was to get a first-hand information of the advanced technology available in Hungary for chemical decontamination equipment, aerial radiation equipment, UAVs and techniques for bio-fuel generation. The Indian delegation also explored the feasibility for exchange of researches between India and Hungary. India and Hungary would continue to exchange information and technical specifications on the above subjects.

**Proposed MoU on Education & Science:** UGC has agreed in principle for executing the MoU, the final draft is already ready for signatures i.e. 200 scholarships for Indian Students to study in Universities/Institutions in Hungary and 35 scholarships for Hungarian Students to study in the Universities/Institutions in India. UGC and Ministry of Higher Education, Hungary are liaising in this regard, it is

expected to be finalised soon.

**Cultural Exchange Programme:** for 2013-15 was signed recently. Under the programme Embassy has chalked out a detailed plan of action which proposes a varied mix of exchanges under culture. A Rajasthani Group's visit to Hungary was arranged under the Cultural Exchange Programme.

**Delegation from Gujarat:** A high level trade and investment delegation from the western Indian State of Gujarat plans to visit Hungary in the first half of September in connection with "7th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2015" to be held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat from 11 to 13 January 2015. The delegation will visit Hungary to explore trade and business opportunities and have meaningful interaction with the industry and business community of Hungary. ■

## India-Bosnia & Herzegovina Economic Relations

**India-Bosnia & Herzegovina (BiH) Economic Relations:** Trade between India and BiH is limited and in the range of US\$ 26-40 million owing to lack of adequate finances, weak banking sector, lack of awareness of business potential, weak banking network between the two countries and lack of reliable credit facilities. Bosnia is a land-locked country and the main sea-port is the Croatian port of Ploce.

**Investment opportunities:** Investments in Bosnia: Some Indian companies have made investments in Bosnia. As the privatization process continues, opportunities for securing a manufacturing foothold exist in fields as diverse as textile, automobile components, metal processing, energy, wood processing, mining, food processing, tourism, pharmaceutical and infrastructure projects on BOT basis. A leading Indian company - the Ispat Group has made a 51 % equity investment in November, 2003 in the only coke and fertilizer plant in the BiH-Global Ispat Koksana Industrija with an investment of approximately US\$ 10 million. This is located at Lukavac, Tuzla Canton of BiH and a team of 15 Indians from Ispat Group are located there. Arcelor Mittal - widely perceived as an Indian venture - has acquired a steel mill in Zenica and some mining sites in Republika Sprska (one of the two entities in BiH) with a total investment of approximately US\$ 200 million. According to the Bosnian Ministry of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment Promotion Agency (FIPA) several other less known investments augment the above adding up to a total of 1.4 bln US\$ Indian investment to date.

Despite impressive achievements in the past, there is still a huge gap between real potential and actual performances in various sectors. Capital shortage has become the main limitation for efficient tapping of the abundant potential. To materialize these huge potential and resources, B&H economy seeks capital investments, new technologies and access to the new markets.

Large-scale development programs and investment projects have been envisaged in energy, transportation and tourism sectors, requiring significant capital investments, for which B & H requires international cooperation.

The government sponsored Foreign Investment and Trade Promotion Agency (FIPA) has identified the following sectors for investments:

- Tourism (Winter, Spa, Culture, Eco, Maritime)
- Agriculture and Food processing industry (crops, fruits, wines, herbs, livestock, fish, organic foods)
- Energy (coal, hydropower, oil and gas, thermal, wind)
- Wood (pulp, papermills, furniture, biomass)
- Transport (roads, railways, aviation, waterways)
- Mining and Metal processing (coal, bauxite, iron and limestone, iron and steel, aluminum, lead, zinc and copper)
- Automotive (auto components, new technologies)
- Construction industry (building and civil engineering projects)

**Tourism:** Tourism is a major contributor to B&H's

economy. The World Tourism Organization foresees that the B&H tourism market will grow at the rate of 10.5 % from here on until 2020. Tourism sector in B&H has a big potential for development, possessing all requisites to play a significant role in the economy. Consequently, tourism development in B&H was recognized as one of the top priorities of an overall national economic development policy significant efforts have been put into operation by the Government to foster favorable business and investment environment for potential investors.

**Agriculture and food processing industry:** About half of the Bosnia and Herzegovina land area is agricultural land where 2.4 million hectares comprises approximately 1.2 million ha of arable land, 100.000 ha of orchards and vineyards, 500.000 ha of improved grazing land and 850.000 ha of mountain pastures. Agriculture in Bosnia and Herzegovina is dominated by crop production, with livestock production representing less than one third of the total output. The economically most important sub-sector of BiH agriculture is vegetables. Of considerable importance are also fresh cow milk, maize and potatoes.

**Energy:** Bosnia and Herzegovina Energy Sector has huge potential and opportunities for further development and investment. This sector is being restructured to make it an integral part of the European energy market and community. Strategic development programs of the Ministries of Energy, Mining and Industry, has planned significant investments in new power system facilities based on coal, hydro and renewable energy sources and expansion of existing power generation capacities.

**Wood sector:** Bosnia and Herzegovina has a long tradition in forestry and wood processing, going back to the second half of the 19th century. Over 60% of B & H wood sector production is exported, where the finished furniture is becoming more and more an important export product. Currently, the largest markets for these producers are Western Europe, USA and Middle East, but the potential to export to other countries is enormous. Nevertheless, the wood processing sector is characterized by a large gap between its current performances and real potential.

**Transportation:** The transport sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina is one of the most active and vibrant sectors within the economy, due to the ambitious physical and institutional development programs – covering roads, railways, aviation, inland waterways and urban transport - adopted by B & H government, and supported by various international, financial institutions

(World Bank, EBRD, etc.).

**Mining:** Bosnia and Herzegovina has abundant natural mineral resources, particularly coal, bauxite, iron and limestone. The main energy resource of B&H is coal (brown coal and lignite), with estimated reserves of 6 billion tons. Deposits of lignite and brown coal are sited all around the country. B&H has an estimated 653 million tons of iron ore deposits concentrated around Ljubija and Jablanica. Total bauxite deposits are estimated at 120 million tons, with over 30 million tons of accessible reserves which are scattered throughout B&H. Significant deposits of non-metal and other industrial minerals, such as salt, limestone, asbestos, pyrophyllite, kaolin, gypsums, clay, (china clay), dolomite, silica sand, stones, gravel (aggregates), sand, and other minerals are also found.

**Metal Processing:** The metal processing industry in B&H is fairly large, covering ferrous and non-ferrous metal processing, primarily iron and steel, aluminium, lead, zinc and copper. B&H metal sector has permanent and robust production growth rate of over 10% over the past years, being the strongest exporter in B&H economy. Metal industry is one of the most important industrial sectors of the whole region and according to the economic strategy set by the B&H government, the metal industry is a strategic industry with comparative advantages such as human resources, raw materials, metal production capacities, etc.

**Automotives:** The automotive industry of Bosnia and Herzegovina was disrupted and damaged by the war, but primary metal production, metal processing, tool making, plastic processing, mechanical and electrical engineering, automotive textile products and vehicle assembly still exist and gradually the original cohesion of the automotive industry in B&H is being rebuilt in the last ten years. This industry has experienced dynamic development and has become export-oriented, exporting an average 90 % of their production to 30 countries around the world. B&H companies in automotive industry are producers of a wide spectrum of parts and components.

**Construction industry:** Currently, this sector exports 5,3% of total B&H exports and in 2011 it achieved the strongest nominal growth comparing to other sectors (4,8%). The building and civil engineering sector businesses has experience working on a wide range of international projects and has built a reputation for quality and reliability. Construction companies supplying key markets in the Middle East, North Africa, Russia and Asia and most interesting market for B&H companies at the moment are Albania, Germany and Austria. ■

## India Days at Market Hall

Embassy of India organized “India Days” between 19-21 June, 2014 at the Great Market Hall (1093 Budapest, Vámház krt. 1-3) featuring 17 companies selling Indian products. This was the third such annual event, with the first one in 2011 and the second in 2013. The market hall is a very important tourist location in Budapest with approximately 20000 visitors daily. Although primarily designed to sell Hungarian foodstuff, the regular National Days events seamlessly fit in with the introduction of



Dance Performance at Market Hall

typical products of

dances and yoga demonstrations.

different countries. This time the focus was on India with products of incense sticks, handicrafts, spices, foodstuff, tea, Ayurvedic products, as well as textiles, music CDs, books. Also tourist operators such as World Wings Ltd displayed their exotic travel options alongside detailed Incredible India brochures attractions in India. To add a touch of culture, during the course of the three-day event there were several stage performances such as Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi, Bollywood

## The India Growth Story

India is one of the fastest growing economies in the world and has emerged as a key destination for foreign investors in recent years. Economic reforms initiated in 1991 have resulted in the steady improvement of India’s relative position in the global economy as well as resulting in a rank among the top ten investment destinations since 2007-08, attracting US\$ 195 bn in FDI and US\$ 97 bn in FII over the past five years.

India’s GDP has grown at around 7.9 per cent between 2003 and 2012. According to the IMF, this trend is likely to continue for the next five years with an average GDP growth rate of 7.7 per cent per annum till 2017. India’s GDP for 2013, valued at US\$ 1.9 trillion at current prices is the 10th largest in the world.

India not only supports one of the largest populations in the world, but also one of the youngest. Fifty per cent of its population is below the age of 25 and two-thirds below the age of 35. Also, about 65 per cent of Indians are in the working age group of 15 to 64 years, giving the country a significant edge in terms of cost competitiveness and low labour costs. Moreover, India’s labour force has a strong knowledge base with a significant English-speaking population, making it a top destination for multinational corporations that are looking to expand overseas.

The Indian consumer market will grow 2.5 times by 2025

Consumer spending in India grew from US \$ 549 billion to US\$ 1.06 trillion between 2006 to 2011, putting India on the path to becoming one of the world’s largest consumer markets by 2025. India’s consumption is expected to rise 7.3 per cent annually over the next 20 years.

According to McKinsey Global Institute, 291 million

Indians will move out of desperate poverty to a more sustainable life and more than 23 million Indians will number among the country’s wealthiest citizens by 2025.

Trends in India’s FDI are an endorsement of its status as a preferred investment destination amongst global investors. India’s competitive strengths span telecommunications, information technology, auto-components, chemicals, apparels, pharmaceuticals and jewellery.

India’s steady economic liberalisation and its embrace of the global economy have been key factors in attracting FDI. The government recently opened up multi-brand retail and civil aviation markets to 51 and 49 per cent FDI respectively with more reforms expected in insurance, banking and pension sectors and land acquisition among others. The recent budget announced 49% equity-share of foreign companies in the section of defence production and insurance.

According to the 2013 Global Manufacturing Competitiveness Index report from Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Ltd, India will become the second-most competitive destination for manufacturing by 2018. India, currently ranked fourth, is rated high in the Index mainly because of its huge and growing talent pool, strong domestic demand, competitive wages and its favourable geographic location.

In 2012, the Government of India unveiled a comprehensive National Manufacturing Policy (NMP), aimed at stimulating infrastructure development and unlocking the country’s manufacturing potential. The NMP seeks to create 100 million skilled jobs and improve the share of manufacturing in GDP from 16 per cent in 2012 to 25 per cent by 2022. Another key feature is the establishment of National Investment and Manufacturing

Zones (NIMZs), offering state-of-the-art infrastructure and several business-friendly services.

Recently a National Policy on Electronics (NPE) has been approved, with the aim to catapult the Indian

electronics manufacturing sector to a US \$ 400 billion market by 2020 and generate employment for 28 million Indians. This will include achieving a turnover of US \$ 55 billion in chip design and embedded software industry and US \$ 80 billion through exports. ■

## Indiai és Magyar Különlegességek receptjei

### Orosz Mariann

#### SAMOSZA

Indiai Zöldséges Batyu

Hozzávalók:

2,5 csésze liszt

0,5 csésze graham liszt

8 evőkanál ghí vagy Rama

Margarin vaj

1 teáskanál só (Himalaya só)

8 evőkanál víz (szobahőmérsékletű)

Ghí vagy bőséges jó minőségű olaj a sütéshez



Töltelék:

2-3 krumpli

1 kis vöröshagyma

1 fél karfiol

2 evőkanál zöld borsó

1 teáskanál őrölt koriander

1 v 2 teáskanál chilipor. 2 csipet fekete bors

(lehet apróra vágott csilipaprika vagy erőspaprika)

(lehet 3-4 csipet gyömbért beleszelni)

A lisztet átszitálás után gyúrjuk össze a ghível/vajjal és vízzel. Csomómentesre gyúrjuk 5-8 perc alatt. (Lehet géppel is.) Állaga ekkor közepkemény, nem ragadós. Takarjuk le pamut konyharuhával 50-60 percet. Majd pihentetés után gyúrjuk át, nyújtsuk ki vékonyra kb 2-3 mm-re. Vágjunk ki ovális alakú, tenyérnyi nagyságú korongocskákat. Töltsük bele a töltelék. Vízzel, vizes ujjal tapasszuk össze a batyuk oldalát, visszahajtogatunk 1 mm-et. Bőséges forró olajban kisütjük 4-6 perc alatt, míg világos barna nem lesz. Csepegtessük le.

Vendégeknek tálaljuk, akár menta csantival.

A krumplit megfőzzük, apró kockára vágjuk. Serpenyőben vaját melegítünk. Hagymát apróra kockázva beletesszük, míg szint nem kap, majd a krumplit és fűszereket, párolt zöldborsót és karfiolt sütjük 1-2 percig. Félrehúzzuk, pépesítjük, megvárjuk míg kihűl.

**Tipp:** Sütőben is lehet készíteni, tepsiben. A tésztához ilyenkor több ghít kell használni. Könnyű elkészíteni. 2 vagy 3 alkalom után ki lehet tapasztalni a tökéletes tésztát. Nagyon finom indiai különlegesség, a vendégeket leveszi a lábukról. Jó étvágyat! ■

## BOSNIA DIARY

By Malay Mishra



At Sarajevo Peace Event

I have nothing much to write for this page this time, not because I cannot describe the country and its people adequately, but because, on the contrary, there is so much to write about.

My letter to the reader and the feature article on Peace where Sarajevo has been covered at some length, have thrown glimpses of what could have contained in this diary. Dispersed as they seem, the picture comes out clear and only a person with less sensibility can fail to grasp the imagery which has shrouded the reality.

Two stark images, one of havoc and destruction unleashed by nature's fiercest blow, unleashed through torrential rains giving way to unprecedented floods in the major rivers and rivulets of the state and the other, a call for world peace in the capital where three bullet shots on that fateful day of 28 June 1914 had unleashed the first Great War of Europe, dividing nations, testing alliances far beyond governance and stability, pitting countries and peoples of continents against one another, so much that the map of Europe was never the same again. Less than three decades of an uneasy peace, later 'truce' let's say, Europe was to be again swallowed in the quagmire of conflict, this time much too widespread and debilitating. Boundaries redrawn, young nation states stood largely challenged, leading to the birth of the United Nations, a congregation of states assembled under the leadership of the so-called victors of the war to preside over the spoils of victory.

The world has changed many times since the last 70 years and the old world order lies buried beneath the debris and mayhem of conflicts, state versus state, regional, ethnic, religious, even and more so, conflicts perpetrated by non-state actors on a perpetually surprised world. Yet surprises have ceased to surprise anymore. When lives lie buried under missiles and shrapnel, bombs and bullets, when rapes and killings are used as weapons of mass destruction instead and over and above CBRN lethalware, what surprise is it any more?

I return to Sarajevo, to the Latin Bridge, where those three fatal bullets were fired from the Serb-Bosnian national Gavrilo Princip. The city commemorated 100 years of the sound of those bullets by playing the trumpet of peace. And peaceniks, much from the younger generation, post-1995 children, who may not have been part of the theatre of Sarajevo's strangulation during the harrowing three years when the city and a good part of the country were subjected to ethnic cleansing, a vocabulary invented by man to announce his self-destruction, assembled from all parts of the world.

Innocence ran strong in their blood as they proceeded on their peace march to the city centre and to attend several



Gandhi Exhibiton in Sarajevo



LEFT: In Sarajevo. RIGHT: Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Sarajevo

sessions, workshops, exhibitions and symposia in the hope that the world would be a better place to live, where peace would reign and replace the sound of guns and missiles.

The incessant rains of just five days in mid-May had wiped off a good part of the north, north-east, central and western parts of the country. It was left to the common man, devoid of ethnic affiliations or prejudice, to join hands with his neighbour, much before state assistance came in, much before an alarmed world reacted, to clear the debris, mud and slush, to rebuild roads, bridges, houses, schools, community centres, even villages. Small might of the human being contra-posed to the fury of nature. Effective in a way, this was a real march towards love, compassion and brotherhood to forge a united society, if ever there could be one.

Closer home, missiles and tunnels had not surged then on the face of the West Bank, nor had eastern Ukraine erupted in violent clashes, while further away northern Iraq was yet to be enveloped by the mad fury of the ISI, wanting to forge a Caliphate from the Euphrates to the Ganges.

And I have been beguiled as ever with the passage of time, what they call contemporary history. ■



# THE PEACE DIVIDEND, FOR A BETTER TOMORROW: THE TALE OF TWO CITIES

By Malay Mishra



It was a veritable journey in history for me, as I traversed two cities, Sarajevo and Jerusalem—divided, distraught brought up on the idiom of war and violence, taught to shun each other's shadows.

Two different contexts—one an ethnic muddle and the other a sharp religious divide. Situated on the same continent, one deep within Europe and the other with a leg to the East.

What could be the versimilitudes, the points of convergence between the two?

I was visiting Sarajevo soon after the debilitating floods, an event of such magnitude to have happened in a century. The people, badly shaken up with nature's fiercest blow, were still mustering up their collective strength and despite ephemeral barriers of an ethnicized divide, coming together, rebuilding houses, roads, bridges, much to the exclusion of the government. Disaster had taught them the need for peace at a time of great stress. They were the builders of tomorrow whom the society was recognizing as the true heirs of a broken civilization.

Less than a month later, Jerusalem was to follow. A mighty yet fractured, civilization with Jews having jostled for space in the 2.5 sq km of space of the old town of Jerusalem with many other religious groups, several sects of Christianity and Islam co-existing together with different parts of the walled city and specific streets named after them.

Sarajevo saw a congregation of peace activists, 'peaceniks' as they would be called in their dramatized version, from at least twenty countries, mostly the younger generation, who were a bewildered lot. They were all excited, talked about their vision for peace in the world of tomorrow over steaming cups of coffee in way side pubs, and discussed the complexities of the modern world order against the back drop of two debilitating world wars having torn asunder the entire continent, one of which had originated from the same place.

I visited that spot near Latin Bridge where today a museum has come up with interesting cameos of those strife-torn times, brushed my general knowledge while offering a flower on the river side to the cause of peace in that violence-racked city.

And then came Gandhi, the messiah of peace and non-violence who had delivered freedom to a broad mass of humanity fighting with his unprecedented weapon of 'Satyagraha' experimented on the battle ground of Natal and Johannesburg. In January 2015 India shall commemorate the return of Mahatma Gandhi to his native soil to try out his experiments with Truth on a larger canvas that which were to shake up the world and usher in a new era, if not 'Ram Rajya', the kingdom of the Divine.

I spoke on Gandhi at a school to a group of enthusiastic students who were acquainted with the name from Richard Attenborough's eponymous film, yet did not know the giant step which the frail figure had taken on a sub-continent to assemble

some 300 million compatriots under his inspiring leadership. A short film quizzing the young minds of Gandhi relevance today evoked many questions and a full-throated discussion. Next was a photo exhibition on Gandhi's life at which I summarized his eventful times, synchronous with the freedom struggle raging all over the country. Last was a symposium on the 'Culture of Peace and Non-Violence' where Gandhi stood out amidst the turbulence of the present day world, narrated so graphically by the panelists, each one representing a distinguished organization fighting for the cause of peace.

Historicism apart, what makes Gandhi a unique phenomenon is his diverse magnitude of thought, belief and practice, so much that he has perpetually refused to be confined to books and memorabilia nor even to be affixed on pedestals in bronze or stone, but has always dared mankind to test him. In the process he is revalidated every time and comes out a shining warrior in the cause of peace.

Back to Jerusalem and to the Indian Hospice ably run by a kind soul, Naseer, who, over three generations of Indian Muslims with a legacy dating to the Indian nationalist movement, was at his hospitable best. Walking through his library, I chanced upon a small book, 'Mahatma Gandhi' - his life and times' written in both English and Arabic. The significance and role-modelling of Gandhi to the Arab world came out crystal clear in the discourse of any friendly host and I marvelled at the uniformation he gave, starting from Gandhi's role in the

Khilafat Movement, The movement was arguably a failure but endeared Gandhi to all Muslims of the sub-continent, a dream which was to shatter when India was partitioned on a spurious 'two nation' theory, on the eve of independence.

Gandhi had perhaps outplayed his role in the dark alleys of Noakhali, on the bloody streets of Calcutta or even on the grassy lawns of Birla House where he fell prey to an assassin's bullets. But could his role ever diminish in a constantly warring world, ever thirsty for stability and balance among diverse groups, be they ethnic or religious, baying for each other's blood?

That is when the peace dividend comes alive, in the words and deeds of the Mahatma, to an outraged world. That is when Sarajevo and Jerusalem find their historical contexts and perhaps gain their lexicon of violence.

Just as I complete my musings, Gaza is in flames with electricity, water and transport cut off to the 1.7 million population, with tunnels shooting up in various parts of Israel as a grotesque reminder of a world full of shadows lurking under the fountainhead of terrorism. And our lives, individual or collective, are getting progressively shortened despite all the technology and innovation that modern science can produce.

We live in a baffling world, indeed, hoping in vain to listen to the symphony of peace. ■

## A PEACENIK'S JOURNEY

Some journeys are epochal, scripted irresistibly for the making of world history. One such journey—a longish passage on the British steamship named S S Arabia—was made by Mahatma Gandhi between Durban and Bombay via London in late 1914. He arrived at Bombay's Apollo Bunder at 7.30 a.m. on January 9, 1915 to a grand and rousing reception. The occasion, quite easily one of the most momentous in the annals of Indian history, ended Gandhiji's 21-year stay in South Africa and marked the beginning of the final phase of his life and struggle for independence in India.

It is on January 9 that the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is celebrated every year since 2003, as a mark of respect to the Great Pravasi. The next PBD will be held at Gandhinagar in Gujarat—Gandhiji's homeland and state of birth.

Mahatma Gandhi was deeply hurt by the atrocities against the Indian and coloured races in a White South Africa. On June 7, 1893, he was himself forcibly evicted in Pietermaritzburg from a whites-only carriage for not obeying laws that segregated each carriage on the basis

of race. At the time, Gandhiji was a 23-year-old Indian lawyer in South Africa. The event hurt him, but he channeled that hurt towards a huge passive resistance movement that came to be known as Satyagraha—built on the force born of Truth, Love and Non-Violence.

While the battle against racial injustice came to dominate Gandhiji's life, at every stage in his life he came to realize the power of non-violence, and the futility of using force. As a stretcher-bearer for the Ambulance Corp that treated wounded soldiers in the war between the British and the Zulus in South Africa in 1906, Gandhiji realized it was hopeless to take on the overwhelming military power of the British army. He knew that peace was the greatest weapon, and South Africa became his preparing ground to challenge and resist the force of the British empire with that weapon.

In 1910, he established an idealistic community at Tolstoy Farm near Johannesburg. It was here that his policy of peaceful resistance began to gain true momentum.

—*Sayantana Chakravarty*

# 90 DAY REPORT OF THE MODI GOVERNMENT

By Sayantan Chakravarty



When he was a young boy, Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi had wanted to join the Order of Monks at the Ramakrishna Mission set up by Swami Vivekananda. Destiny and history, though, had other things in store. Mr Modi who was underage couldn't join the Order, and instead chose to take up public life.

He hasn't done too badly. Today, as Prime Minister, he is proving to the world that he is a visionary, a man of ideas, and even ideals. Barely 90 days into his new role, he's set a scorching pace at the helm in Government, and announced himself as a statesman who is not shy to lead from the front. Armed with an absolute mandate from the people of India, he's clearly a man in a great hurry, a leader out to restore India's place in the league of the world's greatest nations in the next few years.

Leading world figures are gushing at his single-minded agenda of taking India forward, and fast. For instance, at the end of his 3-day visit to India in July, World Bank President, Mr Jim Yong Kim was left gushing about the PM. "We are going to have to run as fast as we

have ever run to keep up with him," he said. Excited and inspired in equal measure by Mr Modi's vision, Mr Kim announced financial support to the tune of USD 15 billion to USD 18 billion over the next three years to help lift hundreds of millions of Indians out of poverty. That is a great morale booster for Mr Modi has repeatedly declared that his Government is pro-poor.

At the BRICS Summit at Fortaleza, Brazil, soon after the conclusion of the FIFA World Cup in mid-July, the PM won the hearts of his summit colleagues, and leaders of South American nations. He spoke of the dire need of restoring peace and stability in the world. He talked about setting up the New Development Bank by the BRICS nations, with equal shareholding for all members. Subsequently on his return to India, he spoke about the formation of a South Asia Development Bank for SAARC nations to take forward his South Asia initiative that started with invitations to regional leaders to attend the swearing-in ceremony in May. Every world leader is lining up to befriend him, he even has an invitation from American President

Barack Obama for a one-on-one meet in Washington in September. The USA, a nation that once denied him entry, now badly wants him on its shores.

In the new scheme of things of the Narendra Modi Government, there's a happy blend of culture and science. India looks to position itself as a real soft power, even at it aspires to attain supremacy in spaces it once dominated thousands of years ago. There is a vision to make India an economic giant, at the same time ensuring that almost half a billion Indians are lifted out of the quagmire of poverty. And importantly, there is great deal of urgency in going about things. Here's where the winds of change are blowing the hardest:

**Bullet Trains:** That signals modernization, and will prop up India's image as a nation fast-tracking itself as an economic giant. Mr Modi has promised a Diamond Quadrilateral to connect India's main metros with high-speed bullet trains. A Japanese International Consortium will complete a project feasibility report by 2015 following which infrastructural details and land acquisition procedures will be

worked out. The trains are expected to run at a maximum speed of 320 kmph (Japan has one that runs at 581 kmph). Keeping with the vision of delivering high-speed trains, a trial run for the Delhi-Agra segment has been completed. The train will run at 160 kmph, 10 kmph faster than the previous record held by Shatabdi trains. Which means rail travellers will be able to cover the 200 km stretch between Delhi and Agra in 99 minutes. That should usher in a new era in rail travel in India.

**100 Smart Cities:** That signals infrastructural growth, and smart

thinking. The Government wants to set up 100 new smart cities. “If we have to generate employment and change for the better, we need to build 100 smart cities,” the PM has said. He has called for an investment of USD 1.2 billion in smart cities over the next year. Once the groundwork is laid, investors from both India and abroad will come rushing in. What exactly is a Smart City? According to global growth consulting firm Frost and Sullivan, “smart cities are evolved state of urbanization where application of technology integrates diverse individual entities such as buildings, utilities, authorities, infrastructure and

industries.” Smart cities use IT to solve urban problems.

**Inland Waterway:** That implies huge all-round development. In most of the western world, rivers are used to transport heavy cargo in barges. This reduces costs while multiplying the volumes transported. It helps maintain cleanliness in rivers and saves costs of transportation by rail and road. The Government has plans to interlink rivers, an idea that first took shape during the days of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government.

Contd on page 33

## INDIAN INDEPENDENCE — A DAY OF RECKONING

As India celebrates its 68th Independence Day on August 15, one thing dawns clear on its horizons—the country’s 67 years of freedom from British rule has come at a heavy price.

We are still struggling to become a nation free of corruption. We are still trying hard to rise above the polity of appeasement and caste. We are still trying hard to bring back billions of dollars of black money stashed away in foreign banks. We need to find ways to somehow lift half a billion Indians out of the quagmire of utter poverty, starvation and hopelessness. We are yet to discover ways to safely manage our solid and medical waste that is generated every day in India’s cities, towns and villages. We also need to provide health and education for all. For the larger masses of India, it is like riding a giant tread mill—they have to run fast year after year just to remain at the same place.

And yet, without freedom, could India have even dreamt a little? It was to smell the sweet air of freedom that thousands of young Indians gave up their lives. Many short movements involving Indian youth dared to take on the force of the British empire, but were crushed swiftly. Many young men were declared terrorists, caught, tried and hanged in courts across India. Those with life terms were sent to rot and die in inhuman conditions of the Andaman cellular prisons and jails across the country. They gave up their present, so that India could dream of a bright future.

It is to those national heroes—countless millions, some fabled, many unknown—to whom we owe our Independence. To them we owe a dream of a corruption-free India, built on the

ideals of our ancient civilization which today, more than anytime else in our history, need to be drummed down on our youth who often appear directionless, trapped in a surfeit of technology, drowning in the choppy sea of disillusionment and completely enslaved by the virtual world.

This Independence, India can afford to hold its head high, for we have a new Government in place, one that has promises to keep, and miles to go, before it can even attempt to sleep. India needs to restore its ancient glory, its pockets of human and spiritual excellence. India needs to find its place in the world order of prosperous nations. India has to lead in science and technology, like it once did 2,500 years ago. India must wipe out its noxious caste system, and replace it with an orderly economic-strata. India needs to use its technology now to put bullet trains on track, to raise smart cities, to create knowledge hubs, start inland waterways, execute a faster road system, and a transparent economy where sellers do not have to come accompanied by kickbacks and buyers do not have to agonize over the sellers’ fine print.

In 68 years since Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru made his famous midnight speech, India has come a long way. It has given to the world men and women of great stature and individual brilliance. Now collectively, the nation must rise and lead the world into the rest of the 21st century. Freedom came at a phenomenal price. Now we must learn to honour it at all times.

—Sayantan Chakravarty

## CULTURE

### Film Club

As part of the popular Cine Club Programme of ICC the screening of two Hindi movies with Hungarian subtitles were organised in June, both

## ICC Activities

shown to a houseful audience with great success.

On 6th of June, the movie Talaash starring Aamir Khan and Rani Mukherji

sent chills of excitement to everyone who came to watch this mysterious drama made in 2012.

The screening of one of the latest

hits Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani (2013) on 20th of June proved to be just what the audience needed on a sunny early summer day. People laughed whole-heartedly at the many humorous and adventurous twists and turns of the story while the enthusiasm and joy for the many colourful dance numbers and songs filled the atmosphere.

As summer approaches the Cine Club goes on holiday as well but not without returning once in a month for a screening. This year the summer programme is organised in the name of diversity screening first a classic drama of Bengali cinema, Charulata based upon the novel of Rabindranath Tagore, directed by Satyajit Ray in 1964. On the 22th August the screening of a contemporary Telugu movie Seethamma Vakitlo Sirimalle Chettu will take place in the auditorium of ICC providing an opportunity for our audience the get a taste of yet another Indian language/regional cinema.

On the 8th August, commemorating the Indian Independence Day, a special screening of the Hindi film 'Pinjar' has been organised; a movie which deals with the Hindu-Muslim conflict emerging during the Partition of India. The movie is based on a Punjabi novel written by Amrita Pritam under the same title and was directed by Chandraprakash Dwivedi in 2003.

**Visit of Rajasthani Folk Music and Dance Group**

A Rajasthan Folk Music and Dance Group visited Hungary from 30 May 2014, to 3 June 2014 and performed at five venues. The details are as under:

**Budapest 30 May 2014**

In Budapest, the performance was organized at the prestigious National Széchényi Library. Mr László Boka, Director for Sciences greeted the audience. Ambassador, Mr Malay



Group Photo at the conclusion of the performance



Performance at Miskolc Auditorium



The group performing in Széchényi Library, Budapest



Performance in Debrecen, Open-Air stage



The Rajasthan group at Széchényi Library, Budapest



Audience at Széchényi Library

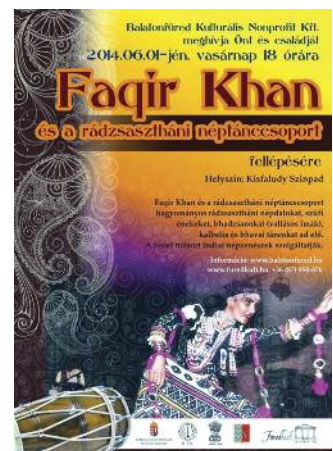
Mishra also spoke on the occasion and dwelt about the deep Indo-Hungarian cultural relations.

**Debrecen/Miskolc 31 May 2014**

In Debrecen the group performed in open air at the famous annual gastro

festival. The crowd went euphoric during and after the performance. In Miskolc, the performance was organized in a huge auditorium. Around 400 persons eagerly enjoyed the Rajasthani dance show. At this venue Mr Gábor Kiss, Deputy Mayor welcomed the Group and Mr Umesh Kumar, Director of ICC greeted the audience. The response to the performance was electric which was reflected in heavy loud cheering.

**Balatonfüred 1 June 2014**



Brochure of the programme depicts Balatonfüred

In Balatonfüred, it was again an open air performance, next to the historic Lake Balaton, on Tagore Promenade, Hungary's most impressive and well-known touristic place. Balatonfüred is special for its connection with India as well: Rabindranath Tagore spent a few weeks in the city's cardiac hospital for recuperation. The Mayor of Balatonfüred, Mr István Bóka gave his welcome speech.. Ambassador Mr Malay Mishra also spoke on the occasion and dwelt on Indo-Hungarian cultural relations. Mr Umesh Kumar, Director of ICC, opened the performance and introduced the Group to the audience.

**Nagykanizsa 2 June 2014**

Nagykanizsa is the city where the paintings of the world famous Hungarian painters, the Brunner mother-daughter duo have been preserved. The organizers organized a painting exhibition of the Brunners in the venue of the Rajasthani show. Ms Csilla Száraz, director of Thúry György Museum, spoke about the pictures. The performance at Nagykanizsa was attended by the



Deputy Mayor of Nagykanizsa, Mr Sándor Dénes speaking on the occasion



Mr Umesh Kumar, Director of ICC greeting the audience

Deputy Mayor Mr Sándor Dénes. He welcomed the Group to Nagykanizsa. Mr Umesh Kumar spoke on the occasion about expanding Indo-Hungarian cultural relations and introduced the Rajasthani Group to the audience. The performance of the Rajasthani Group was preceded by music and reading-out of excerpts of the novel titled "Bengáli tűz" (Bengali fire), written by Ms Rózsa Hajnóczy. The response from the audience was overwhelming.

The visit was extremely successful and the public was enthralled and spellbound at all the venues. The folk culture of Rajasthan with the colours and dynamism of the western Indian state came alive.

**Mohini Attam dance performance by Dharani Ensemble**

10 June 2014 was a very special date for the Indian Cultural Centre. The Dharani Ensemble from Cochin, Kerala visited Budapest for the first time. The group was on a tour in Europe, and visited Hungary with the contribution of Ms Brigitta Hegedűs, an artist of Hungarian origin, the only European member of the group.

Dharani was born out of the vision and zeal of eminent danseuse, choreographer and teacher, Guru Shyamala Surendran. Trained by luminaries of the likes of Dhananjayans, Kalyanikutty Amma, Kalanidhi Narayanan, Sreedevi Rajan, Kamalarani, Sri C.E. Janardhanan, she has been imparting intensive and holistic training in classical dance, music, and the underlying philosophy of art to students from all over the world. Shyamala Surendran, the leader of the group, is a renowned dancer, recipient of the Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Academy Award in 2005 and a member of ICCR's (Indian Council for Cultural Relations) panel of artists.

The dancers graced the event with



Dharani Group



Members of Dharani Group performing



Members of Dharani Group performing

their beautiful and emotional performance. The first part of the evening included regular Mohini Attam items on Krishna and Indian mythology, and the second half of the programme was a dance-cum-theatre performance based on the Sabarimala pilgrimage and story of the Hindu God Ayyappan, put in a lively and heart-warming composition.

The audience was glued to their chairs and clapped continuously till the end of the performance. There are only a few occasions when Hungarians can see Mohini Attam, as there are no Hungarian representatives of this dance style in Hungary. The only Hungarian artist, who learned Mohini

Attam in Kerala, is Ms Brigitta Hegedűs, now a German citizen.

All in all, the evening was one of the great successes of this year at the Indian Cultural Centre.

**Closing Ceremony of Hindi and Orientation Courses**

On the 13 June 2014, the Closing Ceremony of the Hindi orientation, (organised every year in cooperation with the Department of Indo-European Studies of Eotvos Lorand University) took place in the auditorium of the Indian Cultural Centre. In his speech, Hon'ble Ambassador thanked the students of Hindi language and Indian culture and

inspired all to work really hard on improving their Hindi knowledge.

Ambassador also suggested organising extra screening of Hindi movies without subtitles to improve listening skills of students followed by a discussion session to put the extended knowledge into practise.

After the encouraging words, Ms Mária Négyesi, Head of Department on stage alongside with Mr. Umesh Kumar, Director of ICC, and Mr J.N. Majhi, First Secretary, presented students with certificate, testifying that they attended the courses regularly. The outstanding students were awarded with colourful books written in Hindi

to assist them in their further language studies during the summer.

The evening was completed with a little photo session and a joyful reception during which Mr. Masala Restaurant served samosas and masala chai to all guests while Indian melodies enchanted the audience. The students left the venue eagerly chatting about their plans for the summer with the anticipation of returning to Hindi classes.

**Night of Museums Programme**

On 21 June 2014, the Indian Cultural Centre in collaboration with the prestigious Ferenc Hopp Museum of Eastern Asiatic Arts, Budapest, organized a colourful programme in the garden of the museum. In this annual event, over 40 Museums, Galleries and other Cultural Institutes participate in various programmes. On this day, the venues are open until midnight (up to 2 am). About 500.000 persons visit the exhibitions and programs organized in various venues in a single night. This takes place all over Hungary where museums and other exhibition spaces are opened out



Ambassador receiving a bouquet from one of the Hindi students



Hindi Students



Ambassador speaking on the occasion



Mr Umesh Kumar, Director of ICC with Mother of Ms Erzsi Somi, a Hindi student



Ms Mária Négyesi, Head of Dept. speaking on the occasion



Hindi Students' Group



Ambassador and Ms Györgyi Fajcsák, Director lighting the lamp



Ms Gabriella Tóth performing



Ms Melinda Irtl conducting children programme



Performance by Sivasakti Kalananda Dance Theatre



Audience practicing Yoga



Calcutta Trio Group performing



Packed garden gathering



Henna painting

European student of Pt Ravi Shankar, performed Indian classical music in the evening to a packed garden audience.

For those who were interested in Ayurveda, Ms Diksha Sharma held a lecture on the connection between Yoga & Ayurveda, and modern life. She encouraged the audience to ask questions on the subject.

In the last part of the programme, people could try their skills in preparing handicraft items (candle making, glass painting etc.). Besides tea serving by a Tea House, Indian food from Masala Restaurant and Henna painting were arranged. These programmes continued during the whole evening and continued with full interest from Hungarians till way past mid-night. The programme was completed with a Gamelan music concert, organized by the Museum in the late night. Nearly 4205 persons to visited the programme organized by the Indian Cultural Centre.

**Odissi Dance Performance of Ms Sandhyadipa Kar (24 June 2014)**

On a magical evening held on the 24 of June 2014, Ms. Sandhyadipa Kar left the audience spellbound by her enchanting Odissi dance performance when she graced the stage of the Cultural Centre in Budapest, the city she has visited for the ninth time. Of the four breath-taking dance pieces one was performed by her enthusiastic Hungarian students of six-seven years, one of whom, Melinda Magyar has just been awarded an ICCR scholarship to India for further studies in the art of Odissi dance in India.

It can be said without any doubt, that the favourite moment of the evening was Ms. Sandhyadipa narrating by her graceful moves and incredibly expressing facial expression the story of Radha and Krishna in which the lovely Radha is waiting all night in vain for her lover to return only to wake up from her slumber and find the Lord dancing with other Gopis. Krishna without getting frightened by the situation finds

to the public for a nominal fee, an excellent way to popularize culture.

The programme at Ferenc Hopp Museum started with a welcome address by Ambassador Malay Mishra, and Ms Györgyi Fajcsák, Director of the Museum, followed by lighting of the traditional lamp. Ms Gabriella Tóth, renowned Kuchipudi dancer and choreographer opened the evening with her Ramayana piece. Also the members of Tarangam Group performed in the natakam. Ms Melinda Irtl Földiné, Yoga teacher of ICC, amused the children and their parents with her story telling programme. Later she performed yoga

with the members of Yoga for Positive Health Association.

There was another dance performance on the stage by members of the Sivasakti Kalananda Group, led by Ms Panni Somi, which included three separate pieces from the classical tradition.

Between the dance performances there were several Yoga-cum-demonstrations / workshops, led by different instructors of Yoga Associations. The audience could attend and practice the Asanas on the ground.

Calcutta Trio, led by the only





Ms Sandhyadipa Kar performing

an explanation to every accusing clue and tries to woo her back. In the prelude to this dance performance, Ms. Sandhyadipa narrated the charming story to the audience illustrating every development with her engaging dance moves depicting her words.

At the end of the evening the artiste thanked the audience for their heart-warming love every time she visited the country. She said that that her love and enthusiasm for dancing and performing was not complete without the overwhelming kindness and interest the Hungarian people show towards her, something which she does not find anywhere else.

**Vedic Life—Talk Series  
(26 June 2014)**

On 26 June a Talk Series on ‘Vedic Life’ was inaugurated by Ambassador Mr Malay Mishra on the subject ‘VEDANTA, the elixir of life’, where the mission and goals of Vedanta were clearly explained. After him, Guest Speaker Mr Sanjay talked about the Yogic lifestyle and its connection to everyday modern life, complete with a power point presentation.

The Talk Series is an initiative and



Ambassador speaking on the occasion



Mr Sanjay speaking on the occasion



Audience at the Auditorium

attempt to expand the activities of the Cultural Centre towards a field that has not been covered yet, i.e. spirituality. Besides the cultural activities, this event was a good opportunity to gather scholars, both from the Indian and the Hungarian sides to widen the interest of common people in Indian philosophy and way of life. The structure of these talks will include a guest speaker who will complement, or contradict the previous speaker. Therefore these events will encourage and develop the interest of Hungarians in Indian philosophy, who come to the Centre in large numbers to attend several cultural events.

The forthcoming topics of the Talk Series are stated as follows:

- 1) The “4 Ashrams of life” (25 July 2014, 6.00 pm)

- 2) “Yoga, the “Darshan”/ Philosophy” (2 September 2014, 6.00 pm)
- 3) “Yoga, the Experience” (1 October 2014, 6.00 pm)
- 4) “Sakshi, the Witness” (4 November 2014, 6.00 pm)

**Closing Class of Bharatanatyam Courses (7 July 2014)**

On 7 July 2014, the Closing Ceremony of Bharatanatyam classes



Members of Sivasakti Kalananda Dance Theatre performing at ICC



enchanted the audience at the ICC. There were two classes held in this semester for Bharatanatyam learners, one for beginners and the other for advanced students, both on Mondays. There are a few students so eager to be involved in the world of dance that they stay for practice even in the other group, so that they develop their skills. The aim of these classes is to prepare the students for a future course in India or gave them a skill that can be used as a profession.

Ms Panni Somi, the doyen of Bharatanatyam, is the first artist who had initiated this dance form in Hungary. With her guidance the students had led the audience into the world of Bharatanatyam backstage work. There were some basic techniques shown and the history of

Bharatanatyam was introduced. Some choreography too was performed, which had been learnt during the long months of the course. Ms Panni Somi invited some guest performers from her Sivasakti Kalananda Dance Theatre, who volunteered for the event, to represent the atmosphere and milieu of a professional performance, and to make the audience more eager to join the classes in future.

#### Talk on 'The 4 Ashrams of life' (25 July 2014)

The second talk of the series 'The journey within—Talks on Vedic approach to life & Experiences of Yoga' on the above title was held at Indian Cultural Centre on 25 July 2014. Sanjay, a spiritual seeker and a practitioner of Yoga, was the Main Speaker of the evening. He spoke in Hungarian and English languages. His discussion was complemented by Dr Magdolna Banyár (Maharani Devi Dasi), Rector of the Bhaktivedanta Theological College, Chief Guest Speaker, in Hungarian language. The discussion was interactive in nature. The attending public listened to both the speakers attentively and asked clarifications.

#### Celebrations on 67th Anniversary of India's Independence & naming of the Cultural Centre (15 August 2014)

On the occasion of 67th Anniversary of India's Independence, celebrations were organized at the Indian Embassy premises and Embassy Residence. In the morning, a flag hoisting ceremony was organized in the Chancery Building followed by singing of national anthem. Ambassador read excerpts of President's message to the nation on the occasion. Around 200 Indians and Hungarians attended the morning function. A great sense of fanfare and enthusiasm prevailed in the atmosphere. The programme concluded with serving of refreshments at the Indian Cultural Centre.

The evening programme was organized at the Embassy Residence and surrounding sprawling garden. At the outset, Ambassador welcomed the guests and dwelt on the robust Indo-Hungarian relations. H.E. Minister of State from the Foreign Ministry was the Chief Guest on the occasion besides the Defence Minister many senior officials of the Government, members of the diplomatic corps and several

members of the Indian Community.

Recognising the huge contribution of Amrita Sher-Gil, an Indo-Hungarian painter, in deepening and strengthening the bilateral cultural relations, Government of India approved the naming of the Indian Cultural Centre as Amrita Sher-Gil Culture Centre. Keeping in view importance of the decision, it was decided to have the naming event coinciding with India's Independence Day Celebration. This event was one of the main attractions of that evening. Ms Katalin Keserü, an expert on the works of Amrita Sher-Gil, spoke effusively about the life, times, works and contribution of the great artist in strengthening bilateral cultural relations. This was followed by Unveiling / Ribbon cutting ceremony for the naming. A panel exhibition on the life and some of the works of Amrita Sher-Gil was arranged for the occasion. After the ceremony a documentary titled 'Amrita Sher-Gil – A family album' by Navina Sundaram was screened for the audience. The programme concluded with a Dinner with delectable Indian dishes and was appreciated by one and all. ■

## Amrita Sher-Gil — A portrait

By Umesh Kumar

Amrita Sher-Gil (30 January 1913- 5 December 1941) was an eminent Indian painter of the 20th century. She was born in Budapest, Hungary. Her mother Marie-Antoinette Gottesmann was a Jewish opera singer from Hungary. Her father Umrao Singh Sher-Gil Majithia was a Sikh aristocrat from India. She represents an important cultural link between Indian and Hungary. Amrita had a sister by the name of Indira. Amrita spent her early childhood in Budapest. She was blessed with beauty, breeding, charismatic personality and



Amrita Sher-Gil

extraordinary talent as a painter.

Ervin Baktay, the famous Indologist, was her uncle. He guided her by critiquing her works providing a foundation for her passion for painting. Baktay advised her to use servants as models, whose memory led her to return to India in later years. She had started painting from the age of 5 years and formally learnt the art from the age of 8 years. Later on, her mother got her enrolled at Santa Annunziata, an art school in Florence, Italy. During her stay in Italy, she was exposed to the



**Clockwise from above:**

1. South Indian villagers going to a market 1937
2. Brahmacharis
3. Brides Toilet
4. Three Girls, 1935

works of Italian masters. Amrita returned to India in the year 1924.

Again at the age of 16, Amrita sailed from India to Europe with her mother to train as a painter at Paris at the Grande Chaumiere under Pierre Vaillant and Lucien Simon as well as later at the Ecole Des Beaux-Arts. During her stay there, she was inspired by famous masters, Paul Cezanne and Paul Gauguin. Amrita's early paintings show a great influence of Western modes of painting prevalent in Bohemian circles of 1930s. In 1932 for her first major work (Young Girls), she was elected as an Associate of the Grand Salon in Paris in 1933, which made her the youngest ever and the only Asian to receive this prestigious award.

In 1934, she developed a strong desire to return to India to fulfill her destiny as a painter. On return to India, she rediscovered traditions of Indian art which she followed till her death. Initially for a short period, she stayed at their family home at Summer Hill, Shimla. In 1936, she started travelling to pursue the passion of discovering her Indian roots. She was very much impressed and influenced by the Mughal and Pahari schools of painting as well as the cave paintings at Ajanta. She also travelled to South India and painted the famous South Indian trilogy of paintings Bride's Toilet, Brahmacharis, and South Indian Villagers going to a market. Her paintings reveal her passion for colour and a strong empathy for her Indian



subjects, who are often depicted in their poverty and despair. By this time, transformation in her work was complete and she had found her artistic mission to express the life of Indian people through her canvas. The colours, textures, vibrancy and earthiness of the people had a deep impact on the young Amrita's works. Her stay in India marked the beginning of a new phase in her artistic development distinct from the European phase of the interwar years when her work showed an engagement with the works of Hungarian painters, especially the Nagybanya school of painting.

Sher-Gil married her Hungarian first cousin, Dr. Victor Egan, a Hungarian, in 1938 and went with him to India and stayed at her paternal family's home. There began her second phase of painting which equals in its impact on Indian art with the likes of Rabindranath Tagore and Jamini Roy of the Bengal School of Art. Her art was strongly influenced by the paintings of Rabindranath and Abanindranath, the pioneers of the Bengal School of painting.

During her stay at Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, she painted the Village Scene, In the Ladies' Enclosure and Siesta all of which portray the leisurely rhythms of life in rural India. Siesta and In the Ladies' Enclosure depict her experiment with the miniature school of painting while Village Scene presents influence of the Pahari School of Painting. In spite of earning critical acclaim from art critics Karl Khandalavala and Charles Fabri as the greatest painter of the century, her paintings found few buyers.

Although her family was closely connected to the British Raj, Amrita was a Congress sympathiser. She was attracted to the poor, distressed and the deprived. Her paintings of Indian villagers and women are a meditative reflection of their condition. She was also attracted by Gandhi's philosophy and lifestyle. Nehru was charmed by her beauty and talent. Her paintings were at one stage even considered for use in the Congress propaganda for village reconstruction.

In September 1941, Victor and Amrita moved to Lahore, before partition of India which was a major cultural and artistic centre. Amrita was known for her many affairs with both men and women and many of the latter she also painted. Her work Two Women is considered to be a painting of herself and her lover Marie Louise.

In 1941, a few days before the opening of her first major solo exhibition in Lahore, she became seriously ill and slipped into a coma. She later on died around midnight on 6 December 1941, leaving behind a large body of work. The real reason for her death has never come to light. A failed abortion and subsequent peritonitis have been suggested as possible causes for her death. Her mother accused her doctor husband Victor of murdering Amrita. Day after Amrita's death, England declared war on Hungary and Victor was sent to jail as a national enemy. Amrita was cremated on 7 December 1941 at Lahore.

Sher-Gil's art has influenced generations of Indian artists from Sayed Haider Raza to Arpita Singh and her depiction of the plight of women has made her art a beacon for women at large both in India and abroad. The Government of India has declared her works as National Art Treasures, and most of them are housed in the National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi. A postage stamp depicting her painting 'Hill Women' was released in 1978 by Indian Postal authorities. A road has been named after her in New Delhi.

Besides inspiring many contemporary Indian artists, in 1993, she also became the inspiration for the famous Urdu play Tumhari Amrita (1992) by Javed Siddiqui, which starred famous Bollywood actors Shabana Azmi and Farooq Shaikh.

Despite her short artistic career, Amrita Sher-Gil remains one of the most captivating artists of her time. With such a fine talent and a unique painting style, her development of subjectivity through self-portraits and struggle for artistic identity, will continue to ignite contemporary interest. She will continue to occupy an eminent position and will be remembered as a pioneer of this art form forever. Being a woman who came from an affluent and upper-middle class strata, she encouraged a spirit of defiance against social norms and encouraged women to play a more prominent role within the field of art.

She is also known as Frida Kahlo of India. Her painting legacy stands at par with that of the Masters of Bengal Renaissance. Her works represent a fusion of the western art as well as old and the modern Indian traditions of painting art. Amrita Shergil is considered as one of the seven great masters of modern Indian art. The first-ever exhibition of her select paintings brought from India was held in Budapest at the prestigious Ernst Museum from 6 Sept. to 3 Oct., 2001. The exhibition featured 25 of Amrita's representative works from her Ecole de Beaux Arts phase – portraits, still lifes, nudes and studio pictures, plein-air paintings from the Hungarian phase, her later paintings inspired by Mughal and Basholi miniatures, Ajanta frescoes and the Mattancheri palace murals and her intense woman-oriented paintings. The biography of Amrita Shergil by Yasodhara Dalmia was released at the Ernst Museum in September 2006. In 2013, a series of programmes dedicated to Amrita Shergil were organized as part of her birth centenary celebrations. These included an exhibition of her paintings in Budapest and Paris. The year 2013 was celebrated as the Birth Centenary Year of Amrita Shergil. On this occasion, an exhibition entitled 'Amrita Shergil and Hungary' was organized at the Vaszary Villa, Balatonfüred from 15 July to 1 September 2013.

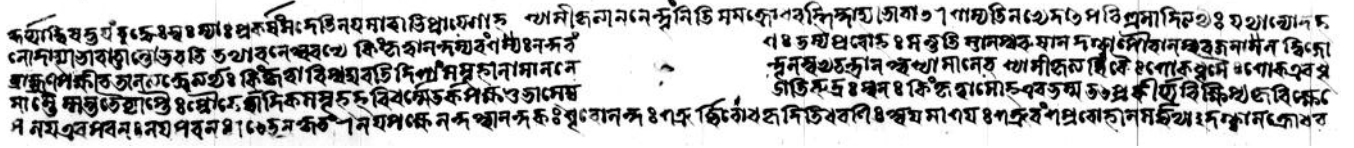
The Indian Cultural Centre in Budapest was named the Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre (ASCR) on 15 August 2014 on the occasion of the 67th anniversary of India's Independence. ■

—The author is the Director of ASCR

# Breaking the seals on “The Seal”

## A 15th-century commentary on a classical Sanskrit play

By Daniel Balogh



A page from Vateshvara's commentary from a 15th-century palm leaf manuscript in old Bengali characters. Digitised by the Nepal-German Manuscript Conservation Project

The Rabindranath Tagore Research fellowship funded by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations allows young scholars like myself to pursue their Indological studies and accumulate teaching experience at the Department of Indo-European Studies, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest. My current field of study is a Sanskrit drama whose plot is woven around politics and intrigue: the *Mudrarakshasa* of Vishakhadatta (we might call it ‘The Seal and the Minister’ in English). One important segment of my work concerns an early commentary on the drama, which has never been published before and which I am editing from manuscripts preserved in Nepal. The author of this commentary was named Vateshvara and probably lived around the 14th century in the region of Bengal.

Why would a 21st-century scholar want to work for years on a dusty commentary on an ancient play? Not to help the understanding the drama, which is, truth be told, generally easier reading than the commentary. Simple preservation, the effort to prevent any knowledge from being lost, might be a good enough reason, yet there is more. One important point is the textual criticism of the primary work. Manuscripts in the climate of the Indian subcontinent generally need to be copied again and again after a century or two or they might simply fall to bits. Mistakes and changes introduced by careless or well-meaning copyists inevitably creep into every text in this process (think of the game of Chinese whispers). However, the textual transmission of the primary work happens along lines entirely separate from that of the commentary, and the latter preserves a kind of fossil of the play as known to the commentator. Just as in palaeontology, such a fossil is invaluable for visualising the common ancestor and reconstructing the history of the extant versions of the text. Another point of interest is one that classical Indology has often neglected. This is the question of what in a play was deemed worthy of explanation by a commentator, and why. I am particularly interested in the message that pre-modern Indian audiences of various ages heard in the *Mudrarakshasa* and the reasons why it rose again and again to popularity over the course of history,

and this is precisely what an old commentary can be helpful in determining.

Vateshvara's work (called *Mudraprakasha* or ‘Illuminating the Seal’) is not quite from the same mould as your average Sanskrit drama commentary. Unlike most later commentators, who give detailed (and often trivial) explanations for most every word of the primary text, he deals mainly with the parts of the drama written in verse (in other words, the tough bits), only occasionally commenting on the prose sections. On the other hand, unlike many of the earliest literary commentaries, who make terseness into an art form, Vateshvara often rants at length about parts that suit his purpose. Most of his long comments show his enthusiasm for a particular topic: the finding of hidden meaning in ‘The Seal and the Minister.’

One traditional purpose that a Sanskrit commentary is expected to serve is the clarification of implied meanings beyond the literal understanding of the original work. Vateshvara's axiom is that the *Mudrarakshasa* is a textbook of polity disguised as a play, just as the famous *Panchatantra* is held to be a guide to polity and practical wisdom, disguised as a bunch of tales. This is why in the opening verse to his commentary Vateshvara promises to break the seal on ‘The Seal’ in order to reveal the trove of political knowledge hidden in it.

For an example of his commentarial style, let us look at the benedictory verse at the start of the *Mudrarakshasa*. It is customary for a Sanskrit plays to start with an invocation to a deity that simultaneously foreshadows the action of the drama. In our case this verse prays for the Lord Shiva's deceit to shelter the audience. The reason the Lord needs deceit is that his wife is rather jealous of another lady in close bodily contact with him: the goddess Ganga who dwells in Shiva's hair. She asks him who the lucky lady on his head is, while he artfully evades one question after another.

To help understand this bafflingly complex verse,

Vateshvara first gives his reader the syntactic backbone: “may the Lord’s deceit shelter you,” then adds one complement after another to this basic sentence. Whenever he feels the need, he cites lexicographers, grammarians and literary theorists to prove his point (and since the date of some of the authorities he refers to is known, this is helpful in narrowing down the period when he may have lived). After clarifying the structure and the direct meaning, he often makes remarks about implications within the drama, such as “the intent of secrecy is that the Lady would be angry if she thought ‘the Lord has some other woman.’”

His explanations often take the form of dialogue with

an imaginary opponent, a commentarial technique known as “the resolution of objections.” A heckler might for instance say, “But surely the action of deceit breeds immorality? ‘The only immorality is deceit,’ said Manu. So it is not fitting for respectable people to be deceitful.” Vateshvara’s ready reply is, “Not so. For if even the omniscient and omnipotent Lord Shiva practices deceit, this implies that man will do so all the more. [...] In political science strategies generally succeed through deceit. It is said in the Varaha Purana that ‘If a minister deems that a stratagem will come to fruition through deceit, in that case deceit is not a fault.’ This does not contradict Manu’s words, since those do not refer to politics.” ■

## Unveiling of Sri Chinmoy Statue in Dobogoko on 2 August 2014

“An icon of peace, love, compassion and oneness with humanity.” was how Ambassador Malay Mishra described Sri Chinmoy on his life-long work when he, along with Gunagriha, Dr Alexander Fulop, head of Sri Chinmoy Association in Budapest, unveiled the over-life size statue of the Master by Calcutta-born Sculptor Kaivalya Torpy in clay (and cast in bronze) on Saturday, 2nd August in Dobogókó.

The statue, adding to the lush green environs of the bewitching mountain resort (about an hour’s drive from Budapest) believed to have healing properties being the centre of the heart chakra (anahata), stood out in Sri Chinmoy’s characteristic posture of ‘Namaskar’, since adopted by all devotees as the sign of greetings. The place was filled on a bright sunny day with devotees of the Sri Chinmoy Foundation from Hungary and devotees overseas, including Agraha Levine who represented the International Sri Chinmoy Centre in New York, chief architect of the town Gyongyver Rozsa, owner of the land, Tamás Vadas and President of Magyar Jurista, Laszlo Schonvizky.

Agraha, in his deeply touching remarks, said that there were 23 statues of Sri Chinmoy world wide and millions of people who came across them were touched with joy and fellow feeling which the Master exuded in his life time. Kaivalya, an amateur artist, said that though old, his hands would continue to sculpt Sri Chinmoy until they could and his next work was going to be Sri Chinmoy on the run. A 20-member group holding a flame torch and a banner arrived on a cross-country marathon at the same spot to tell the audience how well such runs were knitting individuals, communities and countries together, while a Swiss-based choir from Zurich regaled with lilting compositions from



Choir from Zurich



Sri Chinmoy Poems by artist Ms Noémi Vészabó



Agraaha Levine speaking on behalf of the International Sri Chinmoy Centre



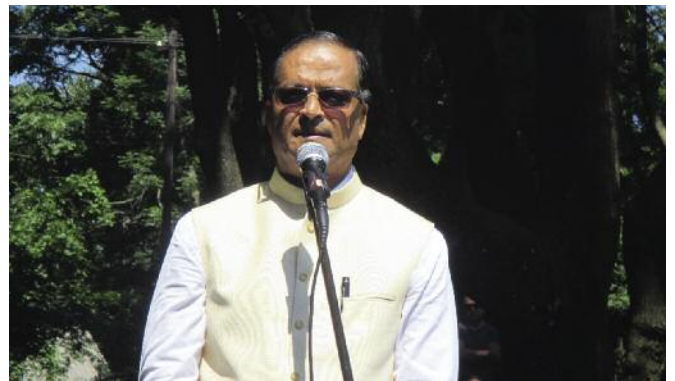
Ambassador with Dr Alexander Fulop, head of Sri Chinmoy Association of Budapest (3rd from left), along with other members



Ambassador unveiling the statue with Dr Fulop



Ambassador with the sculptor Kaivalya Torpy close to the statue



Ambassador addressing the gathering

Sri Chinmoy's vast repertoire. "The light of peace and love which Sri Chinmoy lit has been enlightening the world and shall continue to do so. May the spirit of the great Master pervade all humanity and build a new society for the morrow". Ambassador concluded his unveiling remarks with these words. Truly a heart-touching event it was. ■

—Sri Chinmoy is an internationally renowned spiritual leader, peace luminary and friend of humanity. A poet, writer, composer, musician, athlete and an Advaitic philosopher, he was a Karma Yogi in the truest sense, building peace and brotherhood in the world. Born in Calcutta in 1931, he left India to promote his teachings to Western audiences and lived in New York for a good part of his life, giving peace talks and meditation series in the UN for 37 years as well as in several universities around the world. He visited Hungary twice in 1999 and 2004 and has expressed admiration and love for Hungary and her people in his poetry and addresses. He has taken several initiatives for world harmony through promotion of culture and sports and has built a world wide following of millions of devotees. Sri Chinmoy passed on in 2007 in Jamaica, in the suburb of Queens, New York where he lies buried. His works has been extolled by leaders from all walks of life. President Nelson Mandela remarked, "I applaud your lifetime of service to humanity in the great cause of world peace"



Leader of Peace Run giving remarks, in the background members of the Peace Run Group

# Profile of Dr Shyam Singh Shashi

An eminent Social Scientist, Poet, Litterateur, Academician, Journalist, Dr. Shyam Singh Shashi was awarded 'PADMASHRI' in 1990 for his multifaceted achievements in the field of literature of two languages – Hindi and English. A Socio-Anthropologist of International repute, he has 400 books to his credit, which include – 20 collections of poems, one epic-Agnisagar, 24 books and monologues on tribals including nomadic communities and 10 travelogues, 2 dictionaries, 5 encyclopaedias and 25 books for children. His 300 books in English include 'The World of Nomads', 'Nomads of the Himalayas', 'Tribal Women of India', 'Roma – The Gypsy World', 'Nehru and the Tribals', 'Gaddis of Himalayas', 'A Socio-History of Ex-criminal communities OBCs', 'White Darkness' (Poetry) etc. His first book 'Lal Savera' (Poetry) appeared in his teens and four other books before his Graduation. His books have been published by over 30 publishers in India and abroad. He has edited 50 volumes of Encyclopaedia of Humanities and Social Sciences, 12 Volumes of Encyclopaedia of Indian Tribes, 10 Volumes of Encyclopaedia of World Women and 200 Vols. of Encyclopaedia.

His anthropological epic 'Agnisagar' based on the unending journey of man-Manu or Menes interpreting 'Manusmriti' in social change has been acclaimed as the best model of modern poetry in Hindi and world literature. Scholars conducted research on this monumental work and obtained Ph.D., D.Phil. etc. His book 'Vishwa Kavita ki or' (Towards World Poetry) is a landmark in contemporary world literature.

Dr. Shashi has been honoured by Govts. of U.P., H.P., A.P., Bihar and various leading Institutions in India and abroad for his contributions to literature. In 1991, Hindi Akademi (Delhi State) honoured him with cash award for his outstanding achievements in Hindi literature and Uttar Pradesh Hindi Sansthan (U.P. Govt.) awarded him for his epic 'Agnisagar'. On 14 September 1993, he got another national award – Mahapandit Rahul Sankrityayan Puraskar with a cash prize for his contribution to nomadic literature. On 2nd October 1993, he got yet another national award – Mahakavi Jai Shankar Prasad Puruskar for his epic 'Agnisagar'. Besides felicitations, Dr. Shashi has been honoured by many organisations of India and abroad. Govt. Hindi Sansthan honoured him with Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Sahitya Samman along with a cash prize of



Dr Shyam Singh Shashi

Rs. 2,00,000/-which he donated to the cause of Hindi, Indian Languages and social work.

Widely travelled, Dr. Shashi was born on 1st July 1936 in an agricultural and freedom fighter's family of village Bahadurpur near Haridwar. His studies and researches into tribal life and culture have taken him to numerous travels in India and abroad to 75 countries in Asia, Europe, the Americas, etc.

First in many fields, Dr. Shashi is the first scholar to get his Doctorate in Sociology of Himalayan Nomads from Agra University under the able guidance of Dr. R.N. Saxena, an eminent social scientist of international repute. He is again the first scholar to be conferred upon with D.Litt. in Anthropology for his pioneering work on Roma of Europe and America by the International University-Colombo, Sri Lanka. He topped in his classes from 8th Std. to M.A. He has his post Graduation in Man Management and ManPower Planning from Manchester University, England. He taught Sociology, Mass Communication, translation and delivered lectures on Indian culture, nomadic tribes, poetry etc. in various Universities of India and abroad. He is the first sociologist in India, who has edited-authored five vols. of the first encyclopaedia of Social Sciences in Hindi. He is also the first Anthropologist who travelled from Mexico to Japan for research on sun-worship and wrote a book on sun temples of the World.

## Search Of New Man

A haze of emotions  
rises and hangs me in the space  
building a sky-lab in the firmament.  
A second flickering-storm of emotions  
rises from the smouldering womb  
of Earth, roasting me alive  
in the sea-fire.  
And again a passionate storm  
rises hurling me in the arms of some  
Urvashi torn by the dogs and the vultures,  
A dust-storm rises and compels me  
to toll the bells  
of cosmic annihilation  
to oblate the skeleton,  
afflicted-hollow  
by society on its pier.  
And then in search  
of new man  
I begin to wander...



**White Darkness**

Every day  
in my pavillion  
just as the Sun rises:  
One bizarre night comes down to chat  
of all things on Earth and then  
a tense, transparent darkness  
spreads out on the face of the Sun  
I marvel at the fragrant dawn  
that turn us out a white darkness

**सपनों का सफर**

हमने अपने दर से पूछा -  
हमारा घर कहां है?  
दर ने कहा - सारा जहां जहां है।  
हमने सवाल किया -  
बंधु, फिर जहां कहां है?  
दर का जवाब था - प्यार जहां जहां है।  
**विश्व-कविता की ओर 83**

**जीवन की नाप-तौल**

जीवन बिकता है - बैंकर के नोटों से  
सिक्कों से चुकती तरकारी-सा  
तुलता है - पंसारी की तराजू में  
ग्रामों के छोटे-छोटे बट्टों से  
नपता है - बजाज के मीटर से  
क ट क ट हर सेंटीमीटर पर  
चुकता है - दूधिए के लीटर से  
टपकती धार की फेनिल बूंद-सा।

**एक दधीचि और 83**

## 90 DAY REPORT OF THE MODI GOVERNMENT

Contd from page 20

**Pilgrim Trains:** That connects with the heartbeats of a billion Indians. Throughout his political campaigns, during the elections and before, Mr Modi spoke of introducing special trains for pilgrimage centres. He said that India's huge population that has a Spiritual aspiration would like to be connected to their chosen pilgrimage destinations at all times. He delivered on his promise when the Railway Minister, Mr Sadananda Gowda announced during the budget that his Ministry had identified special pilgrim circuits such as Devi Circuit, Jyotirling Circuit, Jain Circuit, Christian Circuit, Muslim/Sufi Circuit, Sikh Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Famous Temple Circuit. "I propose to introduce specially packaged trains for these circuits," Mr Gowda said in his speech.

**Clean Ganga:** That involves an issue that blends and resonates deeply with Indian minds and sentiments. Four ministries—Water Resources, Surface Transport, Shipping, Tourism—of the Government of India are working together as part of Mr Modi's mission to clean up the Ganga, and make it a hub of Spiritual tourism. "Ganga is our top priority," says Ms Uma Bharati, Minister for Water Resources. "We would like to undertake dredging activities of up to 45 metres between Varanasi and Hoogly. Barrages will be set up and the river used to

transport passengers, as well as goods," says Mr Nitin Gadkari, Minister for Shipping. A committee comprising secretaries from the four ministries is being established to evaluate and monitor the Ganga cleaning project—something that is close to the PM's heart, and that of millions of Indians.

**Institution Building:** That signals a vision for academic excellence for India's large base of youth. The Government wants to expand India's top three academic brands---the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), the All Indian Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and the Indian Institute of Management (IIM). The election manifesto said that the Narendra Modi Government would bring at least one of these three flagship institutions in each and every state of the country. It means setting up of 13 IITs, 21 AIIMS' and 15 IIMs across the nation.

**Space Age:** That signals taking India to the league of most developed nations. India wants to be a space power, just like it wants to be a soft power. That would mean blending science and art and raising them to standards India set over 2,500 years ago. Mr Modi's presence at the June 30 launch of PSLV-C23 rocket at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota was inspiring for space scientists. It also sent out a message to the world that the PM

was going to promote and encourage India's growth as a space power. In his speech he said that "space may be distant, but it drives our modern communication...it ensures quality healthcare to the most distant person through tele-medicine. It empowers the child in the farthest village with quality through long-distance learning. It has a critical role in the vision of a Digital India." He spoke on the role of GIS technology in transforming policy, planning and implementation.

**Official Discipline:** This signals the end of complacency, and ushers in efficient bureaucracy. Mr Modi has personally ordered a huge cleanup and demanded that bureaucrats reorganize their desks and throw away unwanted files. Bureaucrats are busy clearing rooms, corridors and staircases and ensuring that old files and broken furniture do not line up the corridors of India's central ministries. Ministers in the cabinet are now required to be in office by 9 a.m., the PM himself is in well before that time.

Out of the 90-day report then, hope springs unbridled for the coming decade. India, a nation of a billion, can afford to hold its breath for a moment or two to absorb the immense possibilities that lie ahead. And then we all need to start running to keep pace with those possibilities—and, of course, with Mr Modi. ■

# Boldog születésnapot India!

Lázár Ádám



Lakóhajónk valahol a lagúnák között megállt. Kicsit úgy hangozott, mintha a motor kilehelte volna a lelkét, pedig csak a kormányos kapcsolta ki. Azok közül, akik a fedélzeten ültünk, heverésztünk, teáztunk vagy beszélgettünk néhányan először aggodalmaskodva, majd érdeklődve néztek a kormányos felé. Azután, amikor látták, hogy a férfi hálókát enged a vízbe, megnyugodtak. Néhány percre tartott, amíg végre ráébredtek: pontosan ezért jöttünk ide, hogy ne számítson: hol, miért, meddig állunk, mert jó helyen vagyunk. Indiában, Keralán, a lagúnák között. Valóban, ahogy az itteniek nevezik: Isten saját országában.

Reggeli után, barátaimmal körbe ültünk. Kameráinkkal megpróbáltunk valamit megörökíteni abból a csodából, amit mi ott néhány napig átéltünk. Közben azt hallgatták, hogy mit válaszolok arra a kérdésre: miért szereted ennyire Indiát? Mennyire egyszerűnek tűnik és mennyire megválaszolhatatlan kérdés.

Pedig ott volt időnk a válaszra. Úgy terveztük, hogy augusztus 15-én, India születésnapján, egész nap a tömegektől, zajtól távol, a lagúnák között ünneplünk. Az előző napot már itt töltöttük. Ahogy elcsorogtunk a földnyelvekre épült kis pálmalevelekkel borított házikók előtt, iskolai egyenruhájukban gyerekek rohantak hajónk mellett kiabálva: „One pen Sir, one pen!” Így kérték, hogy dobjunk ki nekik egy ceruzát vagy tollat. Néhány ceruza nem érte el őket, a vízbe esett. Az egyik kislány gyorsan ledobta zakóját, cipőjét nem kellett levennie, mert

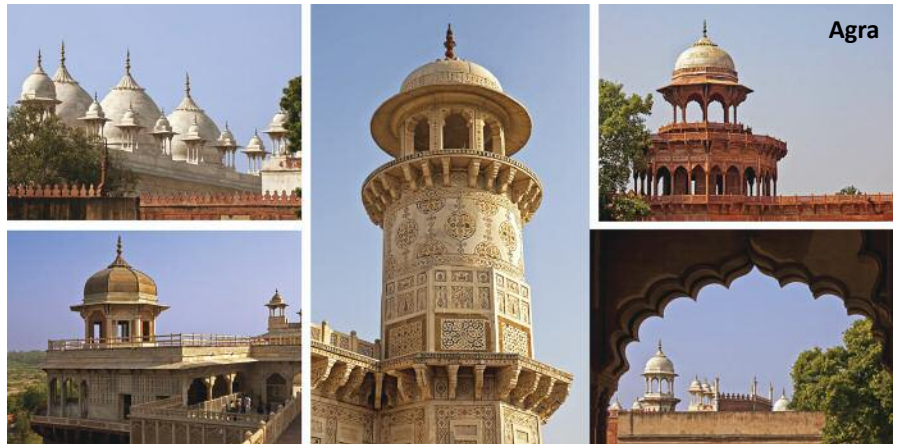
mezítláb volt és beugrott a vízbe az írószereket összeszedni. Még egy teljes napunk maradt a kis földnyelvek, félszigetek és szigetek, vizet beborító zöld növényzet, apró lélekvesztők, bárkák, lakó-és halászhajók között a földi Paradicsomban. Mellettünk egy kis csónak húzott el. A ladikos nem evezővel, hanem egy hosszú rúddal lökte, irányította járgányát. Kormányosunk a helyi, pergő nyelven átszólt az evezősnek, aki lefékezett és lélekvesztőjéből feladott lakóhajónkra vagy tíz kókuszdiót. Azután folytatta útját valahonnan, valahova, a számunkra teljesen kiismerhetetlennek tűnő vizek birodalmában. A kormányos előhúzott egy olyan kést, ami leginkább a mi sarlónkra hasonlított és lecsapta néhány kókusz kúpos tetejét, azután mosolyogva felénk nyújtotta. A kókuszdió teje hűvös, édeskes volt, de ami a legfontosabb, frissítően hatott ránk. A hajót kezelő másik társa kihúzta a közben rákokkal, kis halakkal megtelt hálókát. Néhány perc múlva és azután folyamatosan kaptuk a frissen sült falatokat. Ezek valóban a tenger gyümölcsei voltak.

Azután néhány percre ismét bekapcsolták a motort, amíg egy kis mólóhoz nem értünk. Egyik hajósunk kiugrott és felmászott egy fölény nyúló pálmafára. Ott egy ág mintha be lett volna bugyolálva, nagyon szakszerűen el volt kötve. Ezt a kötést oldotta le, azután borotvaéles késével egy kis szeletet lenyiszált az ágból és az előbb kiürült egyik kókuszdiót odatartva gyűjtötte a fa csöpögő nedvét. Kóstolóra ezt is odakínálta. Ez a helyi sör. Azután intett, hogy lépünk mi is ki utána a szárazföldre. Egy kis ház előtti udvarhoz értünk,

ahonnan egy kortalannak tűnő nő lépett ki. Lement a mi hajónk mellé és a vízből kiemelt néhány a vízbe dobott kókuszdió héjat. Azután egy krikett ütőhöz hasonló fadarabbal elkezdte szétverni a héjakat, amíg azok háncsosakká nem váltak. Ekkorra kijött, mintegy kis szoknyát viselve, a ház ura is. Egymástól hat - nyolc méternyire megálltak, és a nő a háncsosá alakított diót befűzte egy tekerő szerkezetbe, amit a férje hajtott. A háncsos kókuszdióból néhány perc alatt spárga lett. Ezt a nő levette és ebből az alapanyagból finom művi nyakláncokat font a csoportunkban lévő hölgyek elismerésére. De ugyanígy kókusz lábtörölt is rögtönzött. A hölgyek a nyakláncokat és karkötőket vették meg, csoportunk egyik férfi tagja a kormányos kését. Hogy kipróbálja, valóban éles-e, megpróbálta az élet és rögtön el is vágta hüvelyk ujját. Ezt látva a láncokat készítő indiai nő az udvaron lévő növényzetből letépett egy levelet és rászorította a vérző ujjra. Néhány perc múlva a vérzés elállt.

Azután hajónk tovább pöfögött. Közben elkezdett esni az eső. Ilyenkor monszun idején azonban nem esik, hanem zuhog, ömlik az eső, ami meglepően hideg. Csapatunkból valakinek az volt az ötlete, hogy ilyenkor, esőben a legjobb a fürdés. Páran gyorsan be is ugrottunk, azután jót nevtünk, amikor egyik hajósunk esernyőt nyújtott felénk, hogy meg ne ázzunk. A zivatar amilyen hamar jött, ugyanolyan hamar el is ment. Így a késő délutáni naplementét már újra kint a fedélzeten élveztük. Az egyik hajós egy gitárt hozott elő és helyi dalokat rögtönzött. Teljes volt a béke és az elégedettség, amikor a Nap belebukott a tengerbe.

Másnap reggel a matrózok már korán hozzáláttak előkészíteni a reggelit. Megterítettek és elkezdtek kihordani az ízletesebbnél ízletesebb falatokat. Ezt nem csak mi, néhány madár is észrevette. Amikor azt hitték, hogy senki nem látja, vagy nem figyeli őket, gyorsan nekiláttak reggelizni.



Amikor a matrózok ezt meglátták, csak elmosolyodtak.

Miért szeretem Indiát? Többek között ezért. A mosolyért, az egyszerű vendégszeretetért, a körülöttünk lévő természetért, a változatosságért, az ízekért.

Születésnapok mindig jó alkalmak az ünnepeltnek is és az ünneplőknek is visszatekinteni a hátrahagyott évekre, az együtt megélt élményekre. Milyen ez egy olyan valakinek, akinél az ünnepeket nem személy, hanem egy több ezer éves kultúrából függetlenségének most 67. születésnapját ünneplő ország? 67 év ma már egy személynél sem jelent öregkort. Öreg helyett új kifejezést alkottak. Úgy nevezik, hogy szép korú. A kérdés, hogy miért szeretem Indiát, és az évforduló, számomra jó alkalom volt magamban számba venni mind azt, amit én Indiától kaptam. De ez egy könyv és nem egy rövid cikk témája és feladata.

Engem is, mint a legtöbb nyugati embert az egzotikum, a gyermekkori olvasmányok csábítottak először Indiába. Az ember a maharadszák palotáit, várait megnézni jön és Delhiben a Chandni Chowk-i piacon kezd ismerkedni Indiával. Mint azzal a négy – öt éves kisfiúval, aki, amint a piacra értünk, mellém szegődött, és amíg én a kis üzletek, butikok, asztalkák végtelen kavalkádját csodáltam, kitarított mellettem. Nem beszélt, nem kért, csak jött és hatalmas szemével nézett és szomorúan mosolygott. Azután, amikor egy bankjegyet nyomtam a kezébe, egy pillanat alatt eltűnt.

Születésnapján a 67 éves Indiának azt kívánom, hogy gyermekeinek kezébe tudjon ceruzát, tollat nyomni, hogy azután azok megszerzett tudásukkal ne szoruljanak idegenek által kezükbe nyomott bankjegyekre. Boldog szülinapot India! ■

# अभिनेता की मृत्यु

## इशतवान ओरकेन्य

आज दोपहर में उल्लोई सड़क की एक गली में लोकप्रिय अभिनेता ज़ोल्लान ज़ैतैलकि बेहोश होकर गिरा पड़ा था।

पैदल चलने वाले उन्हें पास के अस्पताल में ले गये, विज्ञान की आधुनिकतम तकनीकों के सहारे उन्हें बचाने की सभी कोशिशों की गयीं - जैसे कृत्रिम फेफड़ों तक से साँस दी गयी - पर व्यर्थ ! मृत्यु से एक लंबे संघर्ष के बाद, शाम साढ़े छः बजे, उस महान अभिनेता ने दम तोड़ दिया। उनके मृत शरीर को पोस्टमार्टम संस्थान ले जाया गया।

इस त्रासदी के बावजूद शाम को मंचित होने वाला 'किंग लियर' नाटक बिना किसी परेशानी के संपन्न हो गया। ज़ैतैलकि को आने में

थोड़ी देर जरूर हो गयी। नाटक के पहले अंक में वह बेहद थका नज़र आ रहा था (यह ज़ाहिर था कि उन्हें कई बार प्रांप्टर की मदद की ज़रूरत पड़ी) लेकिन बाद में वे क्रमशः संभलते गये और राजा की मौत का अभिनय तो उन्होंने कुछ ऐसा प्रभावशाली किया कि लोग नाटक के बीच में ही तालियाँ बजा उठे।

इस के बाद कुछ लोगों ने उन्हें एक भोज में आमंत्रित किया लेकिन वे गये नहीं। उन्होंने कहा - नहीं, आज मैं थक कर चूर हो गया हूँ।

अनुवाद: मारिया नेच्यैशी - असगर वजाहत

## एक और दिन चला गया

एक और दिन चला गया,

एक और दिन चला गया।

होंठ रह गए अतृप्त से, भाव रह गए अव्यक्त से  
स्नेही हृदय फिर छला गया, एक और दिन चला गया।

हार का लिए हृदय में भय,  
करके ईश से विजय विनय,  
वक्त की बिंदी बिसात पर,  
कर्म गोट फेंकता हूँ मैं,  
एक दाव फिर चला गया,  
एक और दिन चला गया।

कल्पना के महकते सु सुमन,  
खा गई चथार्थ की अगन,  
सिंह हुआ मृग मरीचिका,  
स्नेहताल दूढ़ता जो मन,  
एक और दिन भ्रम मिटा गया,  
एक और दिन चला गया।

मिट गए कुछ और रास्ते,

बढ़ गए कुछ और फासले,  
शवास सिंद्धु के कुछ और ज्वार,  
जिंदगी के क्षितिज से मिले,  
एक सेतु और गिरा गया,  
एक और दिन चला गया।

एक दौड़ खत्म हो गई,  
इक तलाश और है शुरू,  
जिंदगी के प्रश्नपत्र का,  
एक भाग और है शुरू,  
एक प्रश्न फिर बचा रहा,  
एक और दिन चला गया।

चीलों की पंखध्वनि में,  
कातक की बहादुर चहक सी,  
सर्प भरे जंगलों के बीच,  
चंदन की मंदिर महक सी,  
एक और फिर बंधा गया,  
एक और दिन चला गया।

-संजय गुप्ता

# A CSODAFÁ

(Gudzsaráti népmese)

Fordította Kiss Csaba

Egyszer volt, hol nem volt, volt egyszer négy barát. Úgy hívták őket, hogy: Rámdzsi, Ratandzsi, Mandzsi és Mánékdzsi. Falun éltek, és nagyon unták már magukat. El is döntötték, elmenni egy nagyobb városba, szerencsét próbálni.

Felkerekedtek hát, és elindultak a főváros felé. A főváros igencsak messze volt. Jól kifáradtak útközben, így hát leheveredtek egy fa árnyékában. Mangófa volt, de nem akármilyen: csodafa!

Nem sok idejük maradt, mielőtt leszáll az est. Ratandzsi így szólt:

- Miért ne tölthetnénk itt az éjszakát? Jól kialusszuk magunkat, aztán holnap folytatjuk utunkat!

- Jó, de ne aludjunk el mind a négyen! Felváltva őrködjünk! - ezt Mánékdzsi mondta.

- Aludjatok, én majd őrködöm - szólalt meg Rámdzsi.

A három jóbarát elaludt, Rámdzsi meg ébren őrködött. Eltelt egy kis idő, egyszer csak a fa tetejéről szól egy hang:

- Ugorj, ugorj, vagy zuhanok!

- Ki az?! Ki van ott? - kiáltott fel rémülten Rámdzsi.

Válaszként megint szól a hang:

- Ugorj, ugorj, vagy zuhanok!

- Ugrik a rosseb. Ha zuhannod kell, hát zuhanj! - válaszolt Rámdzsi.

Hát egy mangó azon nyomban lezuhan a fáról a földre. Rámdzsi rögtön ott termett, és felszedte. Ahogy felemeli, megint szól a fa:

- Aki eztet megeszi, királyságot megnyeri!

Rámdzsi úgy döntött, egész éjjel ő fog őrködni. Telt-múlt az idő, éjfél fele megint hallatszik a hang:

- Ugorj, ugorj, vagy zuhanok!

- Ugrik a rosseb. Ha zuhannod kell, hát zuhanj! - válaszolt Rámdzsi.

Erre újabb mangó esett le a fáról. Rámdzsi megint felkapta, és újra szól a fa:



- Aki eztet megeszi, gyöngyöt fog biz' az sírni, zafírokat nevetni!

Telt-múlt az idő. Rámdzsi ébren őrködött. Három barátja az igazak álmát aludta. Hallja megint Rámdzsi:

- Ugorj, ugorj, vagy zuhanok!

- Ugrik a rosseb. Ha zuhannod kell, hát zuhanj! - mondja újra Rámdzsi.

Leesik a harmadik mangó is. A fa megszólal:

- Aki eztet megeszi, dutyiba fog kerülni!

Rámdzsi felveszi a mangót, és várja, hátha egy negyedik is lepottyán. Az éjszakából nem sok volt már, pirkadt, de a negyedik mangó csak nem érkezett. Reggelre Rámdzsi úgy aludt, mint a bunda. Ratandzsi, Mandzsi és Mánékdzsi felébredtek, és elmentek - indiai szokás szerint - faággal fogatmosni. Aztán visszatértek, de Rámdzsi még mindig húzta a lóbőrt. Ratandzsi, Mandzsi és Mánékdzsi látják, hogy Rámdzsi tálkájában ott virít három mangó. Farkas éhesek voltak, több se kellett nekik, mind befalták reggelire.

Kisvártatva felébred Rámdzsi, és látja, hogy hült helyük a mangóknak. Nem szólt semmit. A négy jóbarát folytatta útját a főváros felé. Még el sem értek a palota kapujához, látják, hogy a város népe mind az utcákon ünnepel, virágfüzérekkel, trombitákkal, nagydobokkal, és középen ott áll egy elefánt, annak az ormányán is hatalmas virágfüzér. Az elefánt, ahogy megpillantja a négy jóbarátot, elindul feléjük, és hipp-hopp Mánékdzsi nyakába akasztja a virágfüzért.

Mánékdzsi persze azt sem tudta, hogy örüljön vagy megijedjen. A nép kiáltozni kezdett:

- Éljen a király! Éljen a király! Mától te vagy a királyunk!

- Én? Király? Ez valami tévedés lesz! - próbált szólni Mánékdzsi, de hasztalan. Mondják az emberek:

- A királyunk hirtelen meghalt. Az udvari varázslók és csillagjósok azt mondták, hogy akinek ma a nyakába akasztja az elefánt a virágfűzért, az lesz a királyunk.

Erre Ratandzsi elkezdett örömeiben nevetni. Ahogy egy pillanatra abbahagyja a nevetést, látja, hogy egy csillogó zafír hull a lába elé. Megdöbbenve szólt:

- A nevetésemből zafír lesz? - és megint felnevetett. Még egy zafírkő hullott a lába elé.

Mánékdzsi az újabb csodának is nagyon megörült.

- Ratandzsi! Az istenek kegye ez! Soha ne hagyjuk el egymást! Legyél te a miniszterem és kincstárnokom! Ha csak kifogy a kincstár, te majd nevensz egy kicsit.

Mánékdzsi és Ratandzsi a másik kettőhöz fordul:

- Ne menjetek sehova, próbáljatok itt szerencsét! Segíteni fogunk.

- Nem akarunk kihasználni titeket. Külön próbálunk szerencsét - válaszolt Rámdzsi.

El is hagyták nyomban a fővárost. Elszomorodott ettől Mánékdzsi és Ratandzsi. Könnyes szemmel néztek Rámdzsi és Mandzsi után. Mánékdzsi igazi könnyeket hullajtott, de Ratandzsi, csodák csodája, igazgyöngyöket. Felkapja Ratandzsi a gyöngyöket, és két barátja után szalad:

- Fogjátok ezeket a gyöngyöket! Jól jöhet még egyszer.

Rámdzsi és Mandzsi eltették a gyöngyöket. Elértek egy másik városba, de mindenhol csak balszerencse érte őket. Minden pénzük elfogyott.

- Adjuk el a gyöngyöket! - szólt Rámdzsi. Elmentek a piacra, de mikor Mandzsi elővette a gyöngyöket, az ékszerkereskedő nagyot nézett. Azt gondolta magában: ilyen egyszerű, szegény embernél hogy lehetne ilyen drága ékszer? Biztos lopta.

Nem vesztegette az idejét, hívta a csendőröket, akik Mandzsi mártírt is a börtönbe.

Rámdzsi nagy nehezen megtalálta a börtönt, és látta, hogy Mandzsi egy kicsiny cellában ül a rács mögött, és magában kesereg. Rámdzsi azon nyomban a főváros felé vette az útját. Odaér a miniszter-kincstárnok elé:

- Emlékszel még a régi barátaidra? Megismersz? Segítségedet szeretném kérni.

A miniszter-kincstárnok oda se hederített. A király

szintúgy. Rámdzsi rövid úton kihajították a palotából.

Rámdzsi elgondolkozott:

- Az egész bajt a fa okozta. Ha nincs fa, nem történt volna semmi baj. Ne legyen a nevem Rámdzsi, ha nem tépem ki gyökereitől azt a fát.

Fogott egy baltát, és visszament a csodafához. Lendíti a baltát, mikor megszólal a fa:

- Állj! Kérlek, ne tedd! Most az egyszer bocsáss meg! Itt van még egy mangó. De nehogyan megedd! Ha innen elindulsz, annak add a mangót, akivel először találkozol! Minden jóra fordul, meglásd!

Fogta a mangót Rámdzsi, és elindult. Az első, akivel találkozott, egy ló volt. Megetette a lovat. Alighogy megeszi a ló a mangót, megszólal emberi hangon. Felült Rámdzsi a ló hátára, a ló meg repülni kezdett. Egy szempillantás alatt a börtönnél voltak. Le sem szállt Rámdzsi a lóról, csak szólt:

- Látod őket? Lásd el a csendőrök baját!

A lónak sem kellett kétszer mondani, jól elagyabugyálta a csendőröket. Hiába volt kardjuk, lándzsájuk! A végén mozdulni sem tudtak, úgy megkapták a magukét.

- Engedjétek el a barátomat, vagy elbúcsúzhattok az életetekéért! - kiáltott Rámdzsi.

Már nyílt is a cellaajtó, és Mandzsi felpattant Rámdzsi mögé a lóra. Repültek a palota felé. A király is kapott néhány pofont a lótól.

- Legyél szerencsétlen egész életedben! - szólt a ló a királynak.

- Segítség! Segítség! - kiáltott kétségbeesetten a király. Futott a miniszter-kincstárnok menteni a király életét. Ratandzsi is megkapta a magáét.

- Zafír és gyöngy legyen az eleséged! - kiáltott a ló, azzal vitte a hátán Rámdzsi és Mandzsi tovább. A falujuk határában leszálltak a lóról. Ahogy a lábuk földet ért, a ló köddé vált. A ló helyén egy kosár zafír és gyöngy állt! Rámdzsi és Mandzsi testvériesen elosztották.

A palotában Mánékdzsi szebbnél szebb ruhákat hordott régen. Most mind rongyokká változtak. A palota népe fujjogni kezdett, és Mánékdzsi letaszították a trónról. Kereshettek új királyt.

A miniszter-kincstárnok, azaz Ratandzsi, ha éhes volt, régebben a legfinomabb ételeket rendelte magának. Most pedig ahogy hozzáért az ételhez, mind zafírrá és gyönggyé alakult. Hogy is ehetne zafírt meg gyöngyöt?! Aztán őt is elkergették.

Így tehát Ratandzsi örökké éhesen tengette az életét. Mánékdzsi pedig mindenhol csak a baj érte. Rámdzsi és Mandzsi pedig boldogan éltek, míg meg nem haltak. ■

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### **BASILICA OF ESZTERGOM**

The Basilica of Esztergom, the seat of the Catholic Church in Hungary is the largest among the churches in Hungary. It is closely connected with the history of last 1000 years of the Carpathian Basin and Hungary following the Magyar Conquest. It is dedicated to the Saint Mary of the Assumption and Saint Adalbert. During the wars with Turks only one of its side-chapels escaped destruction. It is one of the most beautiful renaissance buildings outside Italy. The construction of the present basilica was started by Prince-Primate Sandor Rudnay in classical style and it completed in almost 50 years. Finally, the basilica was consecrated on August 31, 1856 by Prince-Primate Janos Scitovszky. It is the biggest building in Hungary and the 18th biggest church in the world. It is 118 metres long and 49 metres wide. The outer height of basilica is 100 metres and inner height is 68 metres. The altar piece (13.5 × 6.6 metres) depicting the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, by Girolamo Michelangelo Grigoletti is the largest painting in the world on a single piece of canvas. The frescos have been done by Ludwig von Moralt from Munich and statues by Italian sculptors Pietro Bonani, Pietro della Vedova and Austrian Johann Meixner. Hungarian sculptors Istvan Ferenczy, Alajos Strobl and Gyorgy Kiss also worked and prepared statues. The crypt of the basilica is the burial place of the Hungarian primates and bishops. One can enjoy a wonderful panoramic view of the Highlands (north-west) and of Pilis Mountains (south-east) from the cupola.

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1025 Budapest Búzavirág utca 14, Hungary

Telephone Numbers: (36-1) 325-7742, (36-1) 325-7743

Fax Number: (36-1) 325-7745

Website: [www.indianembassy.hu](http://www.indianembassy.hu)