

AMRIT

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World Dance Day

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AMRIT

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Inauguration of new Apollo Tyres plant in Gyöngyöshalász on 7th April



Ambassador Rahul Chhabra (left), Mr. Onkar S. Kanwar Chairman and Managing Director (middle) and H.E. Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, Mr. Neeraj Kanwar (Vice-Chairman and Managing Director (second right), H.E. Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Mr. Péter Sijjártó (extreme right) during the inauguration ceremony

H.E. PM Viktor Orbán ceremoniously inaugurated the Apollo Tyres plant in Gyöngyöshalász, the largest Indian greenfield investment in Hungary spread over more than 72 hectare costing 475 million EUR. The Hungarian government has supported the investment with a grant of HUF 16 billion. The plant, which is Apollo's second in Europe, will put out two million tyres a year once it reaches full capacity at the fall of 2018.

During the inauguration ceremony Mr. Neeraj Kanwar, Vice-Chairman and Managing Director, H.E. Mr. Viktor Orbán, Prime Minister, Mr. Onkar S. Kanwar, Chairman and Managing Director and Ambassador Rahul Chhabra gave speeches to the more than 1300 guests. After the speeches, a ceremonious cracking of the coconut was performed and the start button for the factory was pressed. The factory currently employs



Ambassador, Mr. Onkar S. Kanwar, Chairman and PM Viktor Orbán visiting the new plant

500 and will be employing 1000 car and light truck tyres per annum. workers when in full production, producing appx 675,000 commercial vehicle tyres and 5.5 million passenger

This investment will complement Apollo Tyre's existing facility in

Netherlands and will produce both the Apollo and Vredestein brand of tyres. Apollo Tyres in Hungary has collaboration with 8 technical schools for students and the University of Miskolc for research and development.

Founded in 1972, its main

headquarters is in Gurgaon, Haryana, India, and with presence in South Africa, the Netherlands and Germany, it employs 16000 workers worldwide.

After the ceremony, the guests were taken to a factory tour where the operation and the tyre-making

procedure were shown. The inauguration also marks 40 years of the company being in the business of making and selling tyres.

To celebrate the opening of new plant, Apollo light-painted the Chain Bridge in Budapest. ■

Inauguration of the new office of the TATA Consultancy Services – 18 April 2017



LEFT: Ambassador giving his inaugural speech at the event. **RIGHT:** Mr Prabal Datta, General Manager and Delivery Center Head at the Budapest branch, H.E. Mr. Péter Szijjártó and Ambassador in conversation following the celebration of the expansion

Tata Consultancy Services opened its new office in Budapest 16 years after the first Global Delivery Center was established in the city in 2001. The objective of the first center was to provide near-shore services to customers in Western (the UK and the Continent) and Eastern Europe and to customers with a global presence. The new office was inaugurated with the aim to keep up with the expanding demand for IT services.

Mr. Prabal Datta, General Manager and Delivery Center Head at the Budapest branch gave opening speech. He said he was happy to share this new milestone in the life of TCS and that the company could achieve its growth target planned two years ago in 2015.

Ambassador Rahul Chhabra during his welcome speech congratulated for the achievement of the expansion and wished further success in the future. He highlighted the growing Indian economy and underlined the importance of the cooperation between Hungary and India. Furthermore he was glad that the upcoming International Day of Yoga & Ganga-Danube Cultural Festival of India would be sponsored by TCS.

Next, Dr Tamas Hoffman mayor of the 11th district spoke, emphasizing the importance of the investment noting that TCS plays a major role in the district.

Following his speech, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade H.E Mr. Peter Szijjarto greeted the audience saying that more and more high-value added investments are coming from Asia, looking to expand in the European market. With the reduction of taxes, and social contributions, Hungary is aiming to be the most attractive country in Europe, allowing foreign companies to simultaneously maintain their competitiveness and while also enabling them to offer good salaries. He emphasized that Hungary has highly skilled work force making it a good choice for future investors.

TCS with the expansion of 5000 m2 will create 500 more jobs and in total, it will employ more than 1800 in Budapest. The company has collaboration with local universities and provides scholarship programmes for the students.

The greeting speeches were followed by a reception. ■

Lunch hosted at Residence on 18 April



Group photo of the lunch guests in the company of Mrs. Kavita Chhabra and Ambassador

On 18 April Ambassador and Mrs. Chhabra hosted a special lunch for Ms. Zsuzsa Vánca, former resident of the Chancery building and Ms. Katalin Boldizsár, her cousin, who used to spend her summer vacations with the family at the charming mansion back in the 1940s. Among the guests were Mr. Gábor Verrasztó, local historian who had conducted extensive research on the history of the building and its residents presenting the original plans of the mansion as well. The ladies also brought along several

photos of their time spent here including one of Ms. Zsuzsa Vánca posing in front of the beautiful mantelpiece which still stands today at the heart of the Indian mission in Hungary. The lunch party was fully completed with Dr. György Kertai, spouse of Ms. Zsuzsa Vánca and Ms. Anikó Szelle, professional interpreter and her family. Following the feast of delicious Indian courses, the guests were guided around the garden of the Residence and the Chancery building where Ms. Zsuzsa Vánca recreated her iconic photo in front of the mantelpiece from her childhood. ■

36th Chess Festival in Zalakaros

Zalakaros Chess Festival has commenced for the 36th time on 18 May with more players having entered the tournament than ever before. Approximately 320 players had arrived at the tournament from 28 countries all over the world and with about 40 attendees, India is providing the biggest group of players in the tournament making it also the largest number of Indian players to ever participate in a tournament. Amongst the players was an 11-year old boy, Praggnanandhaa Rameshbabu, who is also the youngest ever international chess master in the world and the only lady, Ms. Ruchna Pujari.

The auspicious occasion of the opening ceremony held at Hotel Karos Spa was honoured by the presence of H.E. Mr. Rahul Chhabra, Ambassador of India as well. In the company of Mr. Ferenc Novák, the mayor of Zalakaros and Mr. Tamás Seszták, the President of the Hungarian Chess Association he delivered his greetings and inaugurated the event.

Following the speeches, a press conference was held at the venue. As the opening ceremony concluded, the matches started with Ambassador watching and eagerly supporting his fellow countrymen.



LEFT: Mr. Ferenc Novák, the mayor of Zalakaros and Ambassador at the opening ceremony of the 36th Chess Festival. **RIGHT:** Ambassador was challenged to a match by young Mr. Raunak Sadhwani, who currently ranks as the 2nd best player in India

Upon the invitation of Mayor Novák, Ambassador spent two days in the resort widely popular throughout Europe and visited the local sights. The mayor gladly

took the role of a guide and showed Ambassador the city famous for its thermal water home and abroad alike. ■

CULTURE

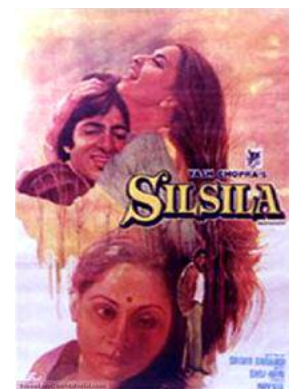
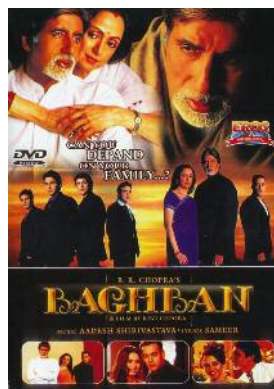
ASCC ACTIVITIES

Indian Film Club

The following films were screened under the regular Film Club at the Cultural Centre in April and May, 2017:

On 21.4.2017 **Baghban** was screened (2003, Hindi), on 5.5.2017 **Baadshah** (Hindi, 1999). ASCC screened **Silsila** (1981, Hindi) on 19.05.2017.

The movies were subtitled in Hungarian language and were very well-received by the audience. Around 150 persons attended the screenings.



OCCASIONAL PROGRAMMES in ASCC

Holi celebrations organized by Bharatiya Samaj at Residence of Ambassador
1 April, 2017

The 7th Annual BSH Holi Milan-2017 was organized by the Bharatiya Samaj of Hungary in cooperation with the Embassy of India on Saturday, the



Amabassador celebrating Holi with members of the Indian community



People dancing



Mr Vijay Kumar, Attache, speaking on the occasion



Pt Rajesh Gangani and Mr Jitendra Yadav performing

1st April, 2017, in the premises of the "India House". The 7th edition of this annual festival was celebrated with colourful cultural performances by the members of the Indian diaspora and graced by dignitaries as well as members of Indian community of Hungary in large numbers.

H.E. Shri Rahul Chhabra, the Ambassador of India addressed the gathering and, along with Smt. Kavita Chhabra, welcomed all the participants of the event. The participants enjoyed lively song performances and danced together on famous film songs celebrating the most colourful festival of India. Gulal was thrown on each other's face to mark the day with traditional customs.



Ms Saumya Shukla with children



Ms Saumya Shukla performing

India Day in Tiszasüly & Besenyszög

22 April, 2017

The Besenyszögért Foundation organized India Day as part of the closing event of its project titled Loli Zumi on 22 April, 2017. Embassy of India & Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre also participated in the programme. The programme took place in Tiszasüly village (with dance & music performances, cooking competition in the morning) and Besenyszög city (cultural programme and Reception in the afternoon). Besides the cultural programme ASCC also organized lecture presentation on Indian cultural diversity, by Mr Vijay Kumar, Attache. He was followed by the Indian teachers of ASCC: Pt Rajesh Gangani Tabla artist, accompanied by Mr Jitendra Yadav on



Cooking competition – evaluating the food by members of Embassy



Ambassador signing the guest book

Harmonium, and Ms Saumya Shukla Kathak performer dancing on stage. An 'open kitchen' was organized where Indian sweet "halwa" was prepared by Mr Toekay Lal. Indian spice exhibition was displayed to audience. H.E. Mr Rahul Chhabra, Ambassador of India, who visited the event with Madam Kavita Chhabra,



Ambassador speaking on the occasion



Group photo

gave closing remarks and emphasized the importance of cultural relations between Hungarian and Indian communities. He also talked about Ganga-Danube: Cultural Festival of India to be organized on 24-25 June in 15 cities of Hungary. His speech was followed by toast by Mr Zoltán Balogh, Mayor of Besenyszög. After the cultural programme, reception was organized with Hungarian and Indian food. Hundreds of people attended the event in both places.

‘In Unison’ - A collaboration of Indian classical & western dances, celebrating International Dance Day 28 April, 2017

The Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre, Embassy of India, celebrated the International Dance Day on 28 April, 2017 in the neatly refurbished



Ambassador applauding



Dr. János Hóvári and Chinese Ambassador with spouse watching the show



Bharatanatyam fusions by Sivasakti Kalananda Theatre

auditorium. India stands for ‘Unity in Diversity’; with this feeling, rare and unconventional performances of Indian Classical Dances in unison with the European dances, presented individually, as well as weaved together were presented to showcase the beautiful bond they create. The event was attended by several VIP dignitaries including Sándor Sipos, DG, Mr Ferenc Jári, Director of Department for Asia-Pacific, MFA, Dr. János Hóvári Director from Art Village of Szentendre, Dr. Magdolna Banyár, Rector of Bhaktivedanta College, H.E. Dr. András Balogh & spouse, Ambassador to India 1988-1992 and several Ambassadors (Russia, China, Belyorussia, Spouse of Argentinian Ambassador, Israel to mention a few). The event started with presenting ghunghroos to the ASCC dance teachers, who will distribute them to their students. A total of 131 sets of ghunghroos were sent by ICCR to ASCC.

Through the choreographies, the dancers portrayed similarities and the differences between these dances. Kathak & Bharatanatyam were presented by Saumya Shukla & Panni Somi - Indian classical dance forms from North and South, respectively,



Ms Virág performing



Ms Garima performing

were performed together by them.

Odissi classical dance was showcased by Ms Virág Túri, who has just arrived back from Orissa, where she spent two years learning from her guru. She enthralled the audience with brand new choreography she brought for the occasion. She was followed by Ms Panni Somi and her dancers of Sivasakti Kalananda Theatre who performed a mixture of Bharatanatyam, Western Contemporary and Jazz Dances. Bharatanatyam has some movements similar to those of the Russian Ballet, Jazz dance and the modern day contemporary dance style. The artists brought together these styles with the help of traditional Bharatanatyam, Jazz, Contemporary & Fusion music styles.

Ms Gabriella Garima Tóth showcased the classical Kuchipudi Hindu temple dance from the state of

Andhra Pradesh. Gabriella spent a few months in India this winter and she again enchanted Hungarian people with her Abhinaya which was also awarded at the Committee of 8th Cuttack Mahotsav: International Dance & Music Festival – 2017 and was felicitated with International Nritya Ratna Award for her years long devotion and dedication towards Indian Classical Dance – Kuchipudi.

The highlight of the evening was the fusion of two very lively and colourful dances: Kathak & Flamenco – performed by Saumya Shukla, Shankari Shaktini (Flamenco) & Agnes Szabo (Flamenco). These two dances belong to two countries separated with vast lands, oceans and seas. However, it is believed that the original Spanish gypsy dance actually originated from the North



Kathak and Flamenco fusion



Ms Shankari performing with Ms Saumya Shukla



Ms Panni Somi and Ms Saumya Shukla together



Ambassador with the dancers



Reception in the Exhibition Hall

Indian Classical Dance - Kathak. Dancing on Kathak, Spanish Flamenco and fusion music, the artists took the audience through a journey of traditions and emotions, similar yet different to each other.

Mrs Kavita Chhabra presented bouquets to the eleven dancers who were applauded by the audience. The evening concluded with Indian Reception in the Exhibition Hall.

Sarod concert by Pt Ranajit Sengupta (Sarod) and Jayanta Sarkar (Tabla)

2 May, 2017

Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre organized a special concert on 2 May, 2017. For the first time in the history of ASCC a Sarod player performed on its stage. Pt Ranajit arrived from Germany; he continued his tour in Switzerland after the Hungarian show.

Pandit Ranajit Sengupta is one of the best Sarod players and music composers from India having performed around the world for last 20 years representing his country. He is a student of late Ustad Dhyanes Khan & Ustad Aashish Khan of Maihar Senia Gharana & attended several workshops by Late Dr. Ustad Ali Akbar Khan in India & California.

He is the holder of many musical



Pt Ranajit Sengupta performing



Audience enjoying the music



Group photo with the artists



Director giving bouquets to the artists

awards. He introduced his instrument to the audience explaining the structure of strings and kind of voice it creates. He performed some basic parts of Indian classical music explaining how this music is being built up. There were slower compositions shown like Alap, and more vigorous pieces too. The audience was very receptive and encored the musicians back. 80 people participated in the concert.

**“Body, Mind and Soul” –
lecture by Gauri Shankar Gupta,
Former Ambassador & High
Commissioner of India, Author
and Motivational Speaker**

12 May 2017



Audience listening to the speech



Director greeting the audience



Mr Gupta speaking

On 12 May, 2017 Mr Gauri Shankar Gupta, former Ambassador of India to Hungary held a lecture in ASCC. Mr Gupta joined the Indian Diplomatic Service in 1981. Besides having been a career diplomat, Mr Gupta is a writer and a poet. His

books include Mongolia: The Land of Blue Skies, Droplets and Chand Lamhe, the last two being on poetry. His fourth book Unraveling Mysteries of Life – Modern Science and Ancient Wisdom published in 2012 is based on extensive research on fundamental issues of human life both from the perspective of modern science and the ancient wisdom. The book has received excellent reviews around the world and has been translated and published in Hungarian language too with the Prescription of Péter Müller, the famous Hungarian philosopher and writer.

Director (ASCC) welcomed Mr Gupta and introduced him to the audience. The lecture was on the subject of connection between mind, body and soul, emphasising the rule of mind over human behaviour and life. Mr Gupta gave excellent examples on the never-changing eternal truths, following which people can find their way and motivation in life.

After the lecture he was asked questions by the audience; answering them he gave a deeper understanding in Indian philosophy. The lecture concluded with a reception and informal interaction with the audience. Mr Gupta also brought some of his books which were sold and signed by the author. Approx. 50 people attended the lecture.

**20th Anniversary of Sivasakti
Kalananda Theatre – Bharata-
natyam performance**

23 May 2017

Sivasakti Kalananda Theatre was founded in 1997. The group has had hundreds of performances in the last 20 years. Ms Panni Somi, leader and coreographer of the group is also a teacher of ASCC. She has not just introduced classical Bharatanatyam dance to Hungarian people but also started a very unique theatre style based on this dance form. The experimental pieces have grown into thematic theatre pieces. The Hungarian



20th Anniversary of Sivasakti
Kalananda Theatre

National Dance Theatre provided a permanent forum for these plays.

On 23 May the group came to ASCC to celebrate the 20th anniversary of their existence and showed a mixture of ten theatre pieces having been produced during the collaboration with the Dance Theatre. Excerpts from „Angels in the Pub” (2006), „Samsara” (2008), „Shakti” (2009), „Chitrakari” (2010), „Chakramala” (2011), „Karma, the game of life” (2012), „Amrita” (2013), „Lord of Time” (2014), „Fairy of the Magic Tree” (2015) „Shakuntala” (2016) were performed by the talented members of the group. This was a magical performance of puppets, pictures, props, imagination, and music. The dancers were given great applause by the audience.

“Everything She Wants - Amrita and Boris” - theatre piece on Amrita Sher-Gil’s life by Navjot Randhawa and Denis Harrap (Indian actors)

26 May 2017



Navjot Randhawa acting



Navjot Randhawa playing Amrita



Group photo with Ambassador

A play about Amrita written by Navjot and directed by the Hungarian poet, Katalin Ladik was shown in ASCC on last Friday of the month. Navjot Randhawa (India) played the part of Amrita who was the lover of Boris in Paris. The producer of the play was Denis Harrap (France, New Zealand), he is the founder of an international theatre workshop, the Andretta Arts Company. The premiere of play was in February, 2016.

The play is about the relationship between Amrita Sher-Gil and Boris

Taslitzky when they were fellow students at Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. It speaks of the transformation of Amrita, from a young bourgeois girl into a ‘revolutionary’ against her own roots. It is the story of two artists coming from different cultures, having different roots, but longing for the same ideals. They breathe their grief, their joy, their ecstatic and erotic desires into each other, into their love and art. They are facing the inevitable transience, the fate of becoming immortal. The idea of this play was born from a film idea that the director Gurvinder Singh (Anhe Ghode da Daan, Chauthi Koot) shared with Navjot Randhawa. After much research on this film (in Paris), Navjot felt the need to write a play about the relationship between Amrita and Boris because despite being a fascinating story, it is not mentioned adequately in the books dedicated to the famous painter. Navjot co-wrote this play with Jim Sarbh, a Bombay based theatre and film artiste.

The occasion was the best possible project allowing the organizers to bring together so many people from different countries wanting to clarify their deeply committed relationship to Amrita Sher-Gil, trying to understand the a complexity of her Hungarian-French-Punjabi identity and the importance of having multiple "roots and wings" to reach the highest level of consciousness and art.

120 people came to see the performance.

**Childrens’ Day Programme
28 May 2017, Városliget (City Park, Budapest)**

Embassy of India in contribution with the International Children’s Safety Service Foundation organized a programme within the frame of the annual Children’s Day on 28 May, 2017 as a part of the Boulevard of Nations in the City Park of Budapest.

The programme contained several



Henna painting for children



Ambassador visiting the India Tent



Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr. László Kövér and Mr TPS Rawat, Director, Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre

kinds of activities which were specially organized for children. Embassy of India had a tent in the Boulevard of Nations with tables and chairs where children could play with their parents. Every hour there was a performance-cum-workshop by artists to show them a piece of Indian culture. Both Hungarians and Indian performers participated in the programme. Pt Rajesh Gangani, Tabla artist started the morning with Tabla programme. He performed solo as well as with his students. Harmonium students also accompanied him. He was followed by Ms Saumya Shukla and her Kathak group. Children were very enthusiastic

about her Indian small girls' performance. Ms Melinda Irtl prepared special yoga class for children, followed by storytelling based on Yoga stories. The children were enchanted. Ms Virág Túri came with her children group to perform in front of the tent Odissi dance. The talented students of hers gave an excellent example that children also can do classical dance after some training. During lunchtime a cultural

quiz was organized and those who replied well to the questions could enjoy free food tasting provided by ISKCON. After lunch ISKCON volunteers, Csémy Noémi and Vidák Vénusz held children yoga workshop. They also did henna painting, face painting for children and showed music pieces on Harmonium for them. The India programme concluded with the solo performances of Ms Saumya Shukla and Pt Gangani

on the Stage of Embassies.

Between the cultural programmes children played with board games of India like carrom, snakes & ladders, chess, and also there were interactive games organized such as drawing, colouring, tests, learning Hindi words etc.

There were around 5-600 people attending the programme the whole day.■

Shobha Nehru, wife of late BK Nehru, passes away at 108

As the wife of the distinguished Indian diplomat, 'Fori Nehru', as she was popularly known, made friends easily and was on first name terms with many political figures. She passed away on Tuesday morning

Shobha Nehru, wife of former Indian Ambassador to the United States BK Nehru, passed away at the age of 108 at her Kasauli residence on Tuesday morning. Aunt of Congress Vice President Rahul Gandhi, she was better known as 'Fori Aunty' to the residents of Kasauli, the hill town that she had made her home in Himachal Pradesh.

Born in Hungary as Magdolna Friedman, ill-treatment of the Jews in Europe prompted her parents to change the family name to Forbath which led her to acquiring the nickname Fori in school.

Her parents had a family business of toys and furniture. She and her parents escaped the Holocaust and the ravages of the Second World War because they had moved to India. Her brother Joseph Friedman, who was an officer in the Hungarian army, narrowly escaped as a fellow officer hid him in his house when the Nazis came looking for him. He managed to escape to Australia and settled down there. Many of her other family members, though, were not so lucky.

She met BK Nehru in Oxford and the couple decided to get married if she could adjust to India. She arrived in India in 1934 and they got married the next year. By then, she had picked up enough Hindi to impress people in Allahabad, many of whom took her to be also from Kashmir.



As the wife of the Indian envoy in Washington, she made friends easily and was on first name terms with several political figures. Henry Kissinger, though he called Indira Gandhi names, was reportedly close to the Nehrus. When Fori Nehru turned 101, stock market wizard George Soros flew down to Chandigarh in his plane to wish her. In the seventies, Indo-US relations reached a low when President Nixon and Kissinger chose to twist the arm of Indira Gandhi by rushing the US Seventh Fleet to the Indian Ocean. But Kissinger remained friendly with BK Nehru with whom he is believed to have engaged in a Track II diplomacy.

There is the endearing story of President Lyndon



Az Indiai Nagykövetség bemutatja:

3. Nemzetközi Jóga Nap & 2. Gangesz-Duna: Indiai Kulturális Fesztivál

2017.
június
24-25.

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hennával • bábjátékkal • és sok más érdekességgel
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A helyszínekről bővebb információért látogasson el:

Facebook oldalunkra: www.facebook.com/IDYGangesDanubeCFOI

Weboldalunkra: www.indianembassy.hu

Johnson dropping in at the Indian Ambassador's house unannounced on the day the Nehrus were hosting a dinner for Indira Gandhi who was visiting. While dinner time approached, the US President refused to leave. It was heading towards a protocol crisis because the President was not invited, when Fori Nehru rescued the situation by requesting the President to join them for dinner. The President readily agreed and one of the guests was hurriedly dropped to make space for the President at the table.

Fori Nehru enjoyed a special relationship with Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru, her husband's cousin. During the Partition, she played an active role in securing Muslim women and in the rehabilitation of Hindu and Sikh women refugees pouring in from West Punjab. Spotting their natural gift for embroidery and knitting, she and Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay set up a welfare organisation which was a

precursor to the Handicrafts Board.

She developed a special affinity to India's North-Eastern states when BK Nehru was stationed there as the Governor of Assam. In one of her rare interviews to the media, she is quoted as saying, "I went to the local bazaars in Manipur, Nagaland and Meghalaya and chatted with the local women to learn more about the region. In Mizoram, I saw such great sarongs and exquisite designs that I cannot imagine how the local young girls nowadays wear anything else apart from their own local creations."

In the same interview, she admitted to have been mesmerised by the local jackfruit in Tripura, which she sent to her friends in Delhi. "Those were the most marvellous fruits I had in this land and I always wondered about the white palace of the Maharaja of Tripura. I called it the wedding cake," she said. ■

HUNGARIAN SECTION

Meghalt a budapesti nő, aki beleházasodott az indiai nagypolitikába – 108 éves volt

Shobha Magdolna Friedmann Nehru. Így hívták azt a Budapestről indult nőt, aki férjhez ment India egyik leghíresebb politikus családjába. A Himalája lábainál álló otthonában érte most a halál, 108 évesen.

Az asszonyt magyar becenevén Fórinak szólították a barátai és a családja. 1935-ben ment férjhez egy indiai diplomatához, Bradzs Kumar Nehruhoz és öltözött szárriba. Olyannyira indiaivá vált, hogy ismerőseik gyakran hitték, hogy ő is a világos bőrű kasmíri panditok közül való, akárcsak a Nehru család – írja a New York Times.

Férje rokonságával együtt ott volt ő is a gyászolók között az erőszakos halált halt nagy indiai vezetők, Mahatma Gandhi, Indira Gandhi és Rádzsív Gandhi mellett. Ő maga általában nem foglalkozott politikával – kivéve egy emlékezetes alkalmat. Amikor is a barátnője, Indira Gandhi (Dzsaváharlál Nehru lánya, az ő férjének unokahúga) volt a miniszterelnök. Akkor a politikusasszony elé lépett, és szembesítette azzal, hogy az 1975-ben bevezetett szükségállapot túlzottan megnyirbálta az emberi jogokat Indiában. Átadott neki egy listát olyan férfiakról, akiknek erőszakkal elköttették az ondóvezetékét abban a kényszersterilizálási kampányban, melyet a kormányfő idősebbik fia, Szandzsaj vezetett.

"Azt mondtam neki: Indu, tudod, hogy soha, de soha



nem beszéltem neked politikáról. De nézd meg ezt. Olyan fiatal fiúk és idősebb férfiak névsora, akiket megfosztottak a nemzőképességüktől. Te is tudod, hogy semmi szükség erre" – idézte fel Shobha Nehru a párbeszédet az indiai állami televíziónak. Indira Gandhinak kevesen mertek ellentmondani, arra pedig végképp nem vetemedett senki, hogy a kedvenc fiát kritizálja.

Shobha Nehru 90 évesen arra kérte a fia, Ashok egyik egykori oxfordi diáktársát, Martin Gilbert brit történészt,



Fotó: Shobha Nehru balról John F. Kennedy és Indira Gandhi társaságában 1962-ben, amikor a férje Washingtonban volt nagykövet / New York Times

hogy ajánljon neki olvasnivalót a zsidók történetéről. A tudós meglepődött: soha nem jutott az eszébe neki sem, hogy Mrs. Nehru nem indiai. Ekkor kezdett el az asszony budapesti gyermekkoráról beszélni.

“Fóri néni annak a népnek a történetét akarta megismerni, amelyikből 67 évvel korábban kivált, hogy India hőségébe és porába, kihívásai közé költözzön” – írta a 2002-ben publikált “Letters to Auntie Fori: The 5,000-Year History of the Jewish People and Their Faith”, vagyis Levelek Fóri néninek: a zsidó nép és hit 5 ezer évének története című munkájában Martin Gilbert.

“Fóri néni” 1908. december 5-én született egy jómódú, asszimiláló budapesti zsidó családba, amelyik Friedmannról a kevésbé zsidós hangzású Forbáthra változtatta a nevét. Édesanyjának felmenői azon kevés zsidók közé tartoztak, akik nemességet kaptak a Monarchiában. A kislány ritkán látogatta a zsinagógát, csak néha kísérté el az édesapját. Azt szokta mondani, “sem én, sem a nővérem nem hiszünk ezekben a dolgokban” – emlékezik vissza a fia, Ashok.

A numerus clausus miatt nem juthatott be Magyarországon egyetemre. A szülei a híres London School of Economics-ba küldték. Ott találkozott B. K. Nehruval, az előkelő kasmíri család fiával, akinek unokatestvére, Dzsaváharlál már akkor az indiai függetlenségi mozgalom vezetője volt, később pedig India első miniszterelnöke lett.

A szülők kételkedtek abban, hogy a lányuk jól választott

– írta a későbbi férj. “Hogy mehetne hozzá az ő gyönyörű, kedves gyermekük egy olyan távoli ország fekete fiához, amelyről ők mit sem tudnak és aki a saját bevallása szerint börtöntöltelék családijához tartozik?”

A vőlegény szülei is kételkedtek. De amikor az örömszülők összetalálkoztak Budapesten, hirtelen történt valami. “A nappaliban ültek” – mesélte Mrs. Nehru. “Én a szobámban sírtam. A jövődő anyósomnak ki kellett mennie. El kellett haladnia a szobám előtt. Meglátta, ahogy zokogok, és azt mondta: hagynunk kell, hogy a fiatalok azt tegyék, amit akarnak.”

A magyar menyasszony száriban szállt le a hajóról. A vőlegénye édesanyja végigvitte Indián. Elmentek a börtönbe is, ahol a britek fogva tartották Dzsaváharlál Nehrut. A pesti lány sírt. Nehru erre írt neki egy csipkelődő levelet, mondván: a Nehruk soha nem sírnak. A felső ajkuk mindig feszes.

Közben otthon, Pesten az édesapját német házvezetőnőjük mentette meg a zsidóüldözéstől. A bátyja, a magyar hadsereg tisztje átúsztta a Dunát Csehszlovákiába. Legjobb barátője autón hagyta el az országot, a kisgyereket a csomagtartóba rejtette.

Őt közben a saját válságai foglalták le Indiában. Amint a függetlenség közeledett, Delhit elárastották a menekültek. Hínduk, akiket elűztek Pakisztánból, muszlimok, akiket vonaton vittek Pakisztánba. Mindkét oldal halálos gyűlölettel üldözte a másikhoz tartozókat az utcákon. Mrs. Nehru

segített egy családnak feljutni egy Pakisztánba tartó vonatra. Később megtudta, hogy mindenkit lemészároltak közülük, amikor a vonat áthaladt Panzsábon.

A frissen érkezetteknek munkalehetőséget keresett és talált. Boltot nyitott, ahol a menekült nők kézimunkáit árulták. Ez később cégbirodalomná nőtt, Central Cottage Industries Emporium néven.

1949-ig nem tért vissza Magyarországra. Akkor viszont “minden nap elment otthonról, hogy találkozzon a barátaival” – meséli Ashok, aki elkísérte az útra. “Soknak közülük nyoma veszett. Másokat megerősszakoltak az oroszok vagy megölték a németek. Szívtépő történeteket

hallott, gyakran jött sírva vissza.” Később magas rangú diplomata férjével Washingtonba költözött, onnét Asszámba, India délkeleti részére, aztán Londonba. De magyar zsidó volta soha nem hagyta el. Azt mondta Gordonnak, hogy mindig képtelen volt kezét rázni a német nagykövettel. “Bűntudatom van” – mondta. “Nem voltam ott. Biztonságban voltam. Miért alakult úgy, hogy nekem nem kellett szenvednem?”

Férje, Bradzs Kumar Nehru 2001-ben hunyt el. Shobha Magdolna Friedmann Nehrut most három fia, négy unokája és három dédunokája gyászolja. ■

—A cikk forrása: globoport.hu

A narancssárga szerzetesi ruha előkelő vendéget takar

Mahamandalesvár Szvámí Vivékpuri Magyarországon

Különleges eseményen vehettek részt a spirituális keresők és jogagyakorlók május 12-én, Budapesten. A Jóga a mindennapi életben® rendszer keretein belül Mahamandalesvár Szvámí Vivékpuri zágrábi jógaoktató és spirituális szerzetest köszöntötték a Nagyenyed utca 16. alatti Szatszang Központban. A látogatást követően Mahamandalesvár Vivékpuri Debrecenben tart hétfévi szemináriumot.

A pénteki központ-avató ünnepségen megjelentek a Mahamandalesvár Vivékpuri által recitált mantrákat és rövid előadást hallgathattak, melyeket a béke és harmónia megteremtéséért és a spirituális keresők és az egészségükért gyakorlók előrehaladásáért mondott el. Mahamandalesvár Vivékpuri fogadása tradicionálisan virágfüzérrel történt, az indiai hagyományoknak megfelelően. A Központ nagytermében megjelent vendégek és érdeklődők az új gyakorlólhelyen kaptak betekintést a Központ munkájába: humanitárius tevékenységeibe, könyvkiadási programjába, és programszervezési aktivitásába, speciális csoportokkal (pl. sportolók, idősek) végzett munkájába. (www.jogaunio.hu/hirek)

Vivékpuri hozzá feltett kérdésre válaszolva mondta el, hogy 16 éves kora óta foglalkozik jógával és jógaoktatással, és már nagyon korán, tinédzser korában megismerkedett a jóga spirituális vonulatával is. Ennek keretében próbált először magától meditálni, de ehhez a valódi iránymutatást spirituális mestere, Vishwaguru Maheshwaranandaji adta meg.

Beszélt néhány szót az étkezés fontosságáról, melyben

kiemelte, hogy ő is folytat időnként diétát, az ún. falaharit (lásd lent), mely nemcsak a súlya tartásában segít, hanem a tudatát is élesen tartja.

A jógaközpontban tett látogatáskor azt is megkérdezték tőle, hogy miként viszonyul a szkeptikusokhoz. Ő maga is szkeptikus, így szereti, ha valaki meg szeretne érteni valamit – legyen az jóga, spiritualitás, egy ászana, vagy bármi az életben. A szkepszt jól használva az intellektusunkat csiszoljuk, a világot nem automatikusan fogadjuk el olyannak, ahogyan élénk tárják mások.

Ki is Mahamandalesvár Szvámí Vivékpuri?

Mahamandalesvár Szvámí Vivékpuri 2013-ban a Mahnirváni Akhara legrangosabb vezetői közé emelkedett, amikor mahamandalesvár beavatásban részesült a Kumbha Melán. A cím önmagában is hatalmas megtiszteltetés, a katolikus szerzetesi rendszerben a pápa őszentsége után következő bíborosi rangnak felel meg.

Mint tapasztalt jógaoktató, mintegy 35 éve foglalkozik intenzíven jógaoktatással, s e mellett jógaoktatókat is képez. Rengeteg horvátországi programot szerveztek az évek során nemcsak a fővárosban, hanem több helyen az adriai tengerparton, és más városokban is. Ő a horvát Jóga a mindennapi életben® országos szervezet, a zágrábi jógaegyesület és a horvátországi Hindu Egyház vezetője is.

Vivékpuri, bár európai származású, a hindu hagyományok

szerint lett jóga-szerzetes 2007-ben az allahabadi Kumbha Melán. Mint a szat-szanáthana-dharma képviselője, mindig hangsúlyozza a kultúrák gyökereinél való azonosságot, melyek megnyilvánulása, hogy a különböző nemzetek ugyanazokat a hagyományokat ápolják világszerte, legyen az például a hinduknál az ősök ideje októberben, vagy az európai hagyományban a Halottak napja és a Mindenszentek. Egy részlet Mahamandalesvár Vivékpuri legutóbbi debreceni előadásából: „Az ember egyik lényeges feladata, hogy az egyetemes elveket megértse a kulturális sokféleség mögött. Ehhez viszont a belső, lelki szabadság néhol rögzös felfedezőútját kell bejárjunk. A szabadság a komplexusoktól és félelmektől mentes személy állapota, aki képes embertársaival együttműködve felelősséget vállalni a saját sorsáért.”

Mahamandalesvár Szvámi Vivékpuri oktatási tevékenységének kiemelkedő ereje a saját tapasztalatok gyakorlati átadásában rejlik. Természetes és közvetlen modorában mindig megkapóan tudja átadni egy-egy ászana hatásait, lényegi működését. Magyarázatai az elméleti oktatás során közelebb hozzák a spirituális keresők számára az Őszentsége Vishwaguru Mahehswarananda által

megalkotott mester-rendszert, a Jóga a mindennapi életben®-t, melyet a világon öt földrészen sok százezren gyakorolnak, továbbá az egyetemes spirituális elveket a mai kultúrában.

Mindezek mellett Indián kívül egyedüli mahamandalesvárként él és tanít Európában. E szolgálatnak része a folyamatos tanítás, oktatás, előadások tartása. Ilyenformán évi 30-35 hétvégéjét főként az európai kontinensen, de tengerentúl is hétvégi szemináriumokon való részvétellel tölti, az otthoni, zágrábi hétköznapi oktatási és szervezési tevékenységén túl. A tanítás és oktatás egy speciális formájának is folyamatosan talál formát, és üzemeltet egy internetes rádiót, valamint egy saját készítésű honlapot a szat-szanáthana-dharmáról, a hinduizmus gyökereiről szóló információkkal. Vivékpuri két, saját kiadású receptkönyve mögött felhalmozott elméleti gyakorlati ismeretanyagát több éven keresztül összegyűjtött tapasztalatai alapozták meg. ■

—Kökény Tibor, Elnök, Magyar Országos Jóga Unió
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TRAVEL

The 70-Year-Old India

by Adam Lazar

Part II

When I visited Kerala for the first time some twenty years ago, there were fewer houseboats and they were nowhere near as big nor as elegant as the ones on the Backwaters today. But there were more tourists. I remembered Kerala as canals, hill stations, wildlife sanctuaries, and above all – such a peaceful way of life – as if the place became still before chaos and stress were created.

Kerala – the Indians themselves call it ‘God’s own country’. Not surprisingly, because for some, Kerala is South India’s most serenely beautiful state. Its shores have almost 600 km of glorious Arabian Sea coast and beaches, a web of glittering backwaters, and the spice and tea-covered hills of the Western Ghats.



Naturally, in twenty years, like most things, Kerala has also changed; but it still is a world away from the turmoil

of big towns. Or is it possible that now it was more quiet because there were hardly any tourists around?

Our first destination south of the state capital Kochi was Alleppey, to travel on the Backwaters. During my first visit in 1998, we reclined on cushions as we were drifting through the quiet canals lined with coconut palms, eating fish, crabs, and salads carefully prepared for us on the houseboat. And when the day was irretrievably over we slept on the boat under a galaxy of stars. It was an experience I never forgot and that is how I remembered this part of the world. And this was what I spoke about to my family and friends when I talked about the Backwaters. The Backwaters are a network of canals, lagoons, lakes, and rivers. There are palm trees on the shores of the Backwaters and everything is happening around these lagoons because the people live here. People built their lives here on narrow spits of reclaimed land only a few meters wide. In the mornings, they stand on the steps of the embankment in front of their houses and wash themselves, their cloths, and their dishes alike. A few hundred yards away where the canals open up into a little lake, people stand on a pole in the middle of the lagoon and fish with a dart. In a little boat looking like a kayak, a couple is pedaling. They are carrying something very heavy. Since both of their hands are occupied with pedaling they look over to us and instead of waving they smile. But this smile is warm like the sun filtering through the leaves of the trees on the sides of the waterways. On our boat one of the young Indian boys had a guitar and played lovely classical Indian music, occasionally changing it, mixing it with some more contemporary numbers. We all joined in and hummed away. As we passed a house with dry palm leaves on the top instead of roof tiles a man waved to us to stop. He quickly climbed up on a coconut tree, cut off a few nuts and climbed down again. With his curved, extremely sharp knife, he chopped the top off three nuts and handed them over to us. In the humid heat that was



just the drink we needed. Then again waving he invited us into his garden. By that point his wife appeared from the building. She walked to the water, took out a few coconut shells that were soaking in the water, and with a piece of wood looking like a baseball bat she beat them flat. Then with her husband and with the help of machinery that looked so old as if they got it out just for us from the museum, they created magic. First a thin rope about 30-40 yards long and from this in a few minutes she made necklaces. As she explained with warm gestures and a few English words, these are gifts for our ladies back home, to our mothers, wives, and daughters. Next to this house stood a little Hindu temple with a huge, black, shining piece of statue. It looked like a bull standing at the front of the temple. A Hindu priest, a Brahmin, just performed the early morning ritual by carefully cleaning



and kissing, then putting a flower garland around the statue of the 'Nandi'— the bull. At that point, kids in their school uniforms rushed out from surrounding houses ready to leave for school. They started chanting: 'one pen Sir, one pen, one pen Sir, one pen!!' Soon we were pen and pencil-less, and they departed happy.

These were the kind of magic that my family wanted to experience as they heard so much about these delights, and they wanted me to relive the joy again. So we hired a small houseboat for two hours. When we took off, we covered a little distance in about 20 minutes, and the driver of the boat navigated his vessel to a small restaurant. Here we could choose from the still swimming fish and crabs which ones we wanted for brunch. We were perfectly satisfied with life until the driver told us that because of our stop for brunch now we have to pay for three hours as it will take him that long to take us back. Following my trips to Kerala and the Backwaters, I talked so much about the peace of the place for my family that we were a bit surprised by this obvious attempt to get even more money from us. The hiring of the boat was very expensive in any case. I did not want to have an argument, I just wanted to enjoy the view, the peace, seeing how people here did their fishing, built their houses, cleaned the canals, and how the children commuted by little boats



to their schools. We just asked him that if it took him 20 minutes one way, why would it take him two hours the other way? He did not answer, did not argue, just carried on driving the boat the opposite direction to where we came from. When we arrived he asked for three hours and a tip. I thought of the people queuing with me at Delhi airport while we were waiting for the bank. They specifically said there is no more corruption in India, and no more tipping.

So, disappointed but instead of being angry, we just looked at the physical trainings of the kids as we passed a school. Instead of running or playing football or cricket they were doing their exercises in kayaks. One of the kids came close to us and smiled. I asked him: what do you want to be when you grow up? He

answered immediately: 'I either want to be good enough to take part in the Nehru Cup Snake Boat Race or I want to make puja'. The Nehru Cup is a famous regatta in Kerala on Vambanad Lake in August each year. Scores of long, low-slung snake boats compete. Each boat is crewed by up to 100 rowers shaded by gleaming silk umbrellas. Thousands of spectators watch them. The other word the boy used was: 'puja', that means a special event, an offering. The one who orders a puja has to pay a donation.

As we moved on we see that a few yards away somebody let thousands of ducks into the canal from his garden. We are just standing and admiring the view and discussing, guessing how the ducks do find their way back home, or if anybody else has ducks in the vicinity who would

know which bird belongs to whom?

But from the ducks we moved on to bigger beasts. Besides its famous backwaters, elegant houseboats, ayurvedic treatments and delicately spiced, taste-bud-tingling cuisine, Kerala is home to wild elephants, exotic birds and even to some tigers. Up in the hills at the Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, all these animals live in semi freedom almost as if they lived in the wild. Huge forests grow all around this area. Once massive trees also stood where the lake is now. At the end of the 19th century the British by mistake created an artificial lake here. So now the dead tree trunks are providing perches to land for the birds to watch us or to hunt for fish from here. This is one of the few

examples when man had done something to the environment that turned out to be beneficial. The one-time pond, from its original size, grew into a decent-size lake that provides a home to bison, antelopes, sambar, wild boar, langur, and an estimated 750 elephants – and some tigers. It is hot on the sightseeing boat that takes us around the lake to see the animals and mostly the elephants in the not too far distance. When some two hours later we land, we look for a place to have some tea. We come upon an unusual canteen. The place is a finely wired cage – for the people. If one wants to eat or drink something, one has to get into the good sized cage and lock the doors. Once one is inside the cage one understands why. Outside, monkeys are

hanging on and off the cage. If they could get in they would steal the food and make havoc. As it is they are just begging. Despite the strongly worded warning, some people feel sorry for them and hand out some food.

It's hard to deny Kerala's liberal use of the slogan 'God's Own Country'. Talking about God in India the question is obvious, especially in Kerala: which gods? Here in some close vicinity one can find temples for the Hindu majority, mosques for the Muslims, a 400-year-old synagogue for the Jews in Kerala's state capital Kochi, and many Christian churches in the state. What is Christmas like in India one can read about in the next issue of Amrit. ■

—Text and pictures: Adam Lazar

HINDI SECTION

एक रूपया

एक महात्मा भ्रमण करते हुए किसी नगर से होकर जा रहे थे। मार्ग में उन्हें एक रूपया मिला। महात्मा तो वैरागी और संतोष से भरे व्यक्ति थे भला एक रूपये का क्या करते इसलिए उन्होंने यह रूपया किसी दरिद्र को देने का विचार किया। कई दिन की तलाश के बाद भी उन्हें कोई दरिद्र व्यक्ति नहीं मिला।

एक दिन वो अपने दैनिक क्रियाकर्म के लिए सुबह सुबह उठते हैं तो क्या देखते हैं कि एक राजा अपनी सेना को लेकर दूसरे राज्य पर आक्रमण के लिए उनके आश्रम के सामने से जा रहा है। ऋषि बाहर को आये तो उन्हें देखकर राजा ने अपनी सेना को रूकने का आदेश दिया और खुद आशीर्वाद के लिए ऋषि के पास आकर बोले महात्मन मैं दूसरे राज्य को जीतने के लिए जा रहा हूँ ताकि मेरा राज्य विस्तार हो सके। इसलिए मुझे विजयी होने का आशीर्वाद प्रदान करें।

इस पर ऋषि ने काफी देर सोचा और सोचने के बाद वो एक रूपया राजा की हथेली में रख दिया। यह देखकर राजा हैरान और नाराज़ दोनों हुए लेकिन उन्हें इसके पीछे का प्रयोजन काफी देर तक सोचने के बाद भी समझ नहीं आया। तो राजा ने महात्मा से इसका कारण पूछा तो महात्मा ने राजा को सहज भाव से जवाब



दिया कि राजन कई दिनों पहले मुझे ये एक रूपया आश्रम आते समय मार्ग में मिला था तो मुझे लगा किसी दरिद्र को इसे दे देना चाहिए क्योंकि किसी वैरागी के पास इसके होने का कोई औचित्य नहीं है। बहुत खोजने के बाद भी मुझे कोई दरिद्र व्यक्ति नहीं मिला लेकिन आज तुम्हें देखकर ये ख्याल आया कि तुमसे दरिद्र तो कोई है ही नहीं इस राज्य में जो सब कुछ होने के बाद भी किसी दूसरे बड़े राज्य के लिए भी लालसा रखता है। यही एक कारण है कि मैंने तुम्हें ये एक रूपया दिया है।

राजा को अपनी गलती का अहसास हो गया और उसने युद्ध का विचार भी त्याग दिया। ■



Gopi dots – face painting for children



Yoga for children



Ms Saumya Shukla performing

**Children's Day
Celebration
on 28 May, 2017 in
Városliget
PICTURE GALLERY**



Children wearing Indian cloths



Tabla workshop



Kathak students performing



Henna painting and Crafts for children



Odissi student performing

KASAULI



Kasauli is a cantonment and town, located in Solan district in the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh. The cantonment was established by the British Raj in 1842 as a Colonial hill station, 77 km from Shimla and lies at a height of 1,927 metres. The town is a health resort, having an elevation of 1900 metres above sea level. Kasauli has a moderate climate. Total rainfall for the year is 1020 millimetres, with humidity at 90% in September and 28% in April.

The Central Research Institute (CRI), originally the Pasteur Institute of India, was established at Kasauli in 1904 under its first director Sir David Semple, as an institute working in the fields of immunology and virological research.

Kasauli Baptist Church is a 1923 brick and wood building situated close to the Sadar Bazaar. According to The Indian Express it is "considered a unique example of colonial architecture of the British era". In 2008 the church was damaged by a fire which destroyed all internal furnishings. Christ Church was previously an Anglican church, inaugurated on 24 July 1853. Since 1970 it has been under the auspices of the Church of North India (CNI) in the diocese of Amritsar. The church contains Spanish and Italian imported stained glass windows depicting Christ, Mary, Saint Barnabas and Saint Francis. The Parsonage was built in 1850 for priests of the Anglican Church. The Gurudwara (Sikh house of worship and hospitality) Shri Guru Nanak Ji is located in the Garkhal bazaar near Kasauli. A further Sikh Gurudwara lies on the Kasauli-Mashobra (old Hindustan-Tibet) Road near the Air Force Radar Station. Krishna Bhawan Mandir, a Hindu shrine, was located in the middle of the town. Dedicated to Lord Krishna, the temple exhibits blend of European and Indian architecture. The mandir is situated in the town and attracts tourists throughout the year. Krishna Bhawan Mandir was built in the year 1926 during the British regime. Imperial rulers, specialists of grand buildings came together with local craftsmen to construct this beautiful shrine. Keeping in mind the principles of Vastu Shastra, the designers and craftsmen built this religious monument. The Nahri Temple, devoted to the Goddess Durga and heavenly Lord Shiva, is thought to have been constructed around a hundred and fifty years ago. Also known as 'Jantar Mantar' and 'Choo Mantar Mahadev Temple', the temple is renowned for its festive celebration of Dusshera and Shivratri. The temple boasts of striking idols of goddess Durga and Lord Shiva placed in the chamber of temple. Near this temple, there is century-old bauri which still offers sweet potable water. This temple is known to be visited by hundreds of pilgrims each year to present their prayers to the almighty.

The Kasauli Brewery and distillery, founded in the 1820s before the establishment of the Kasauli cantonment, is the oldest extant distillery for 'scotch whisky' in Asia The Kasauli brewery is also known as Mohan Meakin.

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